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Volume 62, Number 18 | Wednesday, May 1, 2024 | High Prairie, Alberta

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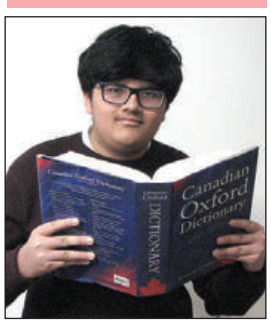
No fish tale!

"Look, dad, we caught the big one!" Young brothers, Lane Niedzielski, 4, left, and William Niedzielski, 6, of High Prairie, hold a replica lake trout with Canadian Wildlife Adventures owner Kevin McNeil, of McLennan.

NEWS



Kumar off to Toronto after winning spelling bee in Calgary.

- Page 5

NEWS

Kinuso School students harvest sap from birch trees.

- Page 17

SPORTS

NPHL eyes expansion to Slave Lake, Fox Creek, High Prairie.

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Recall petition fizzles

Chris Clegg
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – The seats occupied by Town of High Prairie Mayor Mayor Brian Panasiuk and councillors Donna Deynaka and James Waikle are safe.

A recall petition filed against the three on Feb. 16 and approved days later did not get nearly the required 952 signatures.

Darcy Foster filed the petitions and paid the fees on behalf of a group backing the petitions. The 60-day period to acquire the 952 signatures began Feb. 23 and ended April 22.

Speaking on the condition of anonymity, the number of signatures gathered will not be disclosed.

"It was well over half of what voters brought in," said the source.

In the Oct. 18, 2021 municipal election, Panasiuk received 367 votes, Deynaka 410 votes and Waikle 360 votes. At "well over half" people signing, and estimating the number at 300 being very generous, it left the petitions over 650 votes short.

Organizers' efforts to canvas the entire town for support did not occur as planned.

"Sixty per cent of the town was not hit," says the source, adding some people said they would sign but only if visited at their home.

Was the effort worth it?

"I just think it wasn't a failure," added the source, believing council is conducting business better since the petitions were filed.

'Lobbied a little bit' says mayor

AUPE hears answer from council: 30 jobs, youth treatment centre at risk

Chris Clegg
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Alberta Union of Provincial Employees' president Sandra Azocar appeared before High Prairie town council April 26 asking for support to reopen the Campus Based Treatment Centre (known locally at the former Youth Assessment Centre) in High Prairie.

But who knew what and when is a question being asked by many.

"I can say that we have already put out. . .and lobbied already a little bit, but certainly I can think looking at doing some more . . . working with the minister and our MLA. See what we can have happen there," Mayor Brian Panasiuk told the Azocar, who was accompanied by several AUPE members.

At stake are two critical issues: about 30 full time jobs pumping well over $1 million into the local economy plus the treatment for at-risk youth.

Meanwhile, some, if not all councillors, were left in the dark as to what was going on. Panasiuk received an email March 21 from a source informing him what was happening. The letter is published on page 3. Most councillors are now saying they did not receive the email or were not part of any response from council to the Alberta government, which operates the centre.

"I did not know about the email sent to the mayor in relation to YAC," Councillor Donna Deynaka wrote to South Peace News after them meeting. "The public delegation was also the first time I was made aware of the uncertain future of the facility."

"I did not know about the email sent to the mayor in relation to YAC," Councillor Donna Deynaka wrote to *South Peace News* after them meeting.

"The public delegation was also the first time I was made aware of the uncertain future of the facility," she added.

"To my knowledge, there has been no communication from the (Alberta) government, Minister of Children's Services or (Lesser Slave Lake MLA Scott Sinclair) advising the Town of the status of their intentions regarding the future of YAC," Deynaka concluded.

In an email sent April 25, Councillor Sacha Martens shared a letter with *South Peace News* sent to the mayor.

"Is there merit to the email re: YAC closure being sent to you, and not

Cont. on page 3

Funded in part by the Government of Canada's Skills for Success Program | Canada Alberta

High Prairie Traditional Powwow Saturday, May 4!
Grand Entry at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Sports Palace!
Traditional Hand Games at 11 a.m. at Gordon Buchanan Recreation Centre!

YOU ARE INVITED
Share Memories at Triangle Hall
Thursday, May 2, 2024
4:00pm-8:00pm
Let's access those memory banks and share the history.
We all have nostalgia for items we no longer have.
Join us for this museum exhibit, conversation,
re-lived moments, and amazing company!
Tea, Coffee & Snacks
BRING YOUR MEMORIES AND HELP CREATE NEW ONES!
Hosted by Pioneer Threshermans Association - Triangle Hall, 16 KM west of High Prairie, AB, on Hwy. 2A

Community Calendar
Stay up to date on local events
If your non-profit organization has an event let us know at: sales@citylive.com
Share your Peace Country regional events!

Community Calendar

Note: Community Calendar listings are free. AGMs and church services not included unless also advertised. Call [780] 523-4484 with your item or e-mail southpeacenews@hotmail.com. All events subject to change depending on late changes or holidays.

Wednesday, May 1

9 a.m. – HP Interagency Meeting at HP Provincial Building.
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Story Time at HP Municipal Library.
Noon – Grouard Seniors Lunch at Northland School.
5:30 p.m. – Bingo at Kinuso Ag Hall. Pre-Call 6:30 p.m., early bird 6:45 p.m., regular games 7 p.m.
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Kinuso Community Girl Guides meet at Kinuso Ag Hall. Snacks provided.
7 p.m. – AA meeting at Grouard in Brown Building behind Kapawe'no Hall.
7:30 p.m. – Play cards at Joussard Homesteaders Hall.

Thursday, May 2

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Project Sewing at Joussard Homesteaders Hall. Bring your own lunch!
6:30 p.m. – Free Chess Club at HP Municipal Library for ages 12+. Board provided.
7 p.m. – Darts Night at McLennan Legion Hall. Everyone welcome!
7 p.m. – Play bridge card game at the HP Golden Age Club.
7 p.m. – Drop-In Badminton at McLennan Providence School 12 years and older, please.

Friday, May 3

10 a.m. – Prayer Shawl knitting at HP St. Mark's Anglican Church Parish Hall. Everyone welcome!
10 a.m. – Kinuso Seniors Coffee Time at Kinuso Seniors Centre. Ne members welcome.
1:30 p.m. – Enjoy trump & whist games at the HP Golden Age Centre, 4824-53 Ave.
7:30 p.m. – Darts Night at HP Legion Hall. Come out and enjoy the fun!
7:30 p.m. – High Prairie AA chapter meets at HP Church of the Nazarene.

Saturday, May 4

High Prairie Traditional Powwow at Sports Palace. Grand Entries at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
10 a.m. – 2 p.m. – Farmer's Market at Enilda W.I. Hall.

Sunday, May 5

Attend the church of your choice.
1:30 p.m. – Enjoy cribbage games at the HP Golden Age Centre, 4824-53 Ave.
2:30-3:30 p.m. – Free Chess Club at HP Municipal Library ages 11 years & under. Board provided.

Monday, May 6

10 – 11 a.m. – Movement Mondays at JCA Hall in Joussard. Light exercise, stretching. Free!
1 – 4:30 p.m. – Play Mah Jong at Joussard Homesteaders Hall.
6:30 p.m. – Free Chess Club at HP Municipal Library for ages 12+. Board provided.
7 p.m. – Ladies Time Out at Kinuso Seniors Centre.
7:30 p.m. – High Prairie AA chapter meets at HP Church of the Nazarene.
7:30 p.m. – Triangle PTA meeting at Triangle Hall 15 km west of High Prairie.

Tuesday, May 7

10 a.m. – Noon – Drop-In Coffee at HP Golden Age Club.
10 – 11 a.m. – Nampa Seniors' Coffee Morning at Sunrise Café.
1 p.m. – Kinuso Seniors Coffee Time at Kinuso Seniors Centre. New members welcome.
1 – 3 p.m. - Elders Drop-in at HP Native Friendship Centre. Beading, Cards, Crafts, and more.
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – High Prairie Air Cadets Parade (meetings) at HP Legion Hall.
7 p.m. – Whist games at Big Meadow Hall north of Enilda.

Wednesday, May 8

9 a.m. – M.D. of Smoky River meets in Falher in council chambers.
10 a.m. – Big Lakes County meets in High Prairie in council chambers.
10:30 – 11:30 a.m. – Story Time at HP Municipal Library.
Noon – Grouard Seniors Lunch at Northland School.
5:30 p.m. – Bingo at Kinuso Ag Hall. Pre-Call 6:30 p.m., early bird 6:45 p.m., regular games 7 p.m.
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. – Kinuso Community Girl Guides meet at Kinuso Ag Hall. Snacks provided.
7 p.m. – Village of Girouxville meets in council chambers.
7 p.m. – Town of Falher meets in council chambers.
7 p.m. – AA meeting at Grouard in Brown Building behind Kapawe'no Hall.
7:30 p.m. – Play cards at Joussard Homesteaders Hall.

Thursday, May 9

10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. – Project Sewing at Joussard Homesteaders Hall. Bring your own lunch!
6:30 p.m. – Free Chess Club at HP Municipal Library for ages 12+. Board provided.
7 p.m. – Darts Night at McLennan Legion Hall. Everyone welcome!
7 p.m. – Play bridge card game at the HP Golden Age Club.
7 p.m. – Drop-In Badminton at McLennan Providence School 12 years and older, please.

Friday, May 10

10 a.m. – Prayer Shawl knitting at HP St. Mark's Anglican Church Parish Hall. Everyone welcome!
10 a.m. – Kinuso Seniors Coffee Time at Kinuso Seniors Centre. Ne members welcome.
1 p.m. – Nampa Bike Rodeo at Nampa Public School Parking Lot.
1:30 p.m. – Enjoy trump & whist games at the HP Golden Age Centre, 4824-53 Ave.

Saturday, May 11

1 p.m. – Repertoire Dance Society Recital at HP Gordon Buchanan Recreation Centre.

Sunday, May 12

Attend the church of your choice.

The High Prairie Campus Based Treatment Centre (CBTC) is now closed after a fire Nov. 5, 2023. Its future depends on a major project study being completed and subsequent recommendations regarding the state of the building by Alberta's Children and Family Services.

Centre closure

Cont. from page 1

shared with the rest of council?" Martens wrote.

Councillor Judy Stenhouse also replied by email April 25.

"I also would like to know who 'we' lobbied," wrote Stenhouse, adding she was not part of any response.

"I don't recall any discussions on this topic. This was the first time hearing about the YAC uncertainty and how the effects on job loss to the community," she added.

Councillor John Dunn also responded by email to *South Peace News'* inquiries April 25.

"In that meeting (April 23) . . . you heard the union representative and the staff state that they were not aware of what was happening after the fire. I actually was under the impression that they were working to restore the building and it was reopening, until I heard from the union reps that they had been told that the government was not planning on reopening the centre," he added.

Had Dunn or any councillor been forwarded the March 21 email he would have known, or at the very least, investigated the matter.

Councillor Therese Yacyshyn and Councillor James Waikle did not respond to the question if they knew about the March 21 email. If they knew, they are not coming to the defence of the mayor.

Councils are elected share information and make decisions together.

South Peace News also published a story in its April 10 edition making it clear the claim made by Azocar regarding the centre's future.

On April 25, after councillors began disclosing they did not know about the March 21 email, *South Peace News* requested Panasiuk to forward a copy of the email if he sent it to the rest of council. Panasiuk has not responded.

"I don't recall any discussions on this topic. This was the first time hearing about the YAC uncertainty and how the effects on job loss to the community," said Councillor Judy Stenhouse.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

"Is there merit to the email re: YAC closure being sent to you, and not shared with the rest of council?" Councillor Sacha Martens asked Mayor Panasiuk.

However, Panasiuk responded in another email after the April 23 meeting on efforts to reopen the centre made so far.

"The Town council fully supports the Youth Assessment Centre's staying open, as it is an important resource for at-risk youth in our region and is a major employer in our town. The Town's concerns about the YAC staying open have been communicated to our MLA and the Town will continue to lobby for the centre to reopen while the facility is being assessed."

There was no mention of writing the premier, minister of Childrnes Services Big Lakes County or neighbouring First Nations and Metis Settlements asking for their support.

Panasiuk added the following.

"The email came at a time when I was behind in my emails due to being in Edmonton with a life-threatening medical emergency. I did verbally bring up the issue of YAC to council, which included the concerns raised in the email and a phone call received by the employer."

Yet, some councillors are claiming they did not know about the matter until the April 23 meeting or are neither denying or confirming they knew.

Also, since the March 21 email, council has met several times including a March 23 special meeting, March 26 regular meeting, April 4 special meeting, April 9 regular meeting, April 13 special meeting, April 13 committee-of-the-whole meeting, and April 16 special meeting. Minutes show Panasiuk was at each meeting yet councillors are saying they did not know about the YAC issue.

A fire closed the centre in November 2023. At the April 23 meeting, Azocar who is the AUPE vice-president serving the northwest area of Alberta, told council the Alberta government was sending "mixed messages" about the centre. The government has said they are studying the matter and will reach a decision by August.

"Why is it taking nine months to study . . .?" asks Azocar.

"There is no reason to study if the centre is needed. We think it is time for the government to come clean with its intention to the people of High Prairie," she added.

At the meeting, Panasiuk agreed.

"It's a major employer. It is a much-needed facility in our region."

The centre is accredited for 12 youth and licenced for 16.

Azocar was more specific in a letter to the editor published on page 7 this week.

"The government's message to the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE), which represents workers at the centre, was that it will remain closed 'for the foreseeable future.' That literally means the government cannot see a future where the centre reopens."

She adds the centre's workers lost their jobs or were forced to transfer hundreds of kilometres away from home.

"The government told them the closure is permanent. Their jobs aren't coming back," writes Azocar.

"For the sake of the children, for the sake of their families, and for the sake of this community, we demand better," she adds.

Email warned of centre's possible permanent closure

Editor's note: *The following email regarding the High Prairie Campus Based Treatment Centre's possible closure was sent March 21 to Town of High Prairie Mayor Brian Panasiuk, Alberta Children and Family Services Minister Searle Turton, Lesser Slave Lake MLA Scott Sinclair, selected Opposition MLAs and South Peace News. The writer will not be disclosed.*

"This letter is to discuss the closure of the High Prairie Youth Assessment Centre. This closure has serious impacts to approximately 40 staff members that worked, resided, and financially contributed to the town of High Prairie and its businesses. There are staff that have been terminated from employment as a result of this closure decision and has negative impacts to the town, employees, youth in care, businesses and the community as a whole.

"Having this facility in operation in a rural northern Alberta community contributed financially to the town of High Prairie and its businesses. The centre spent money at local businesses such as Freson Bros, Home Hardware, H&S Dollar store, movie theatre, the arena and the swimming pool. Staff who worked there live in High Prairie and spend money in High Prairie and contributed to this town. Having a closure impacting this amount of employees in High Prairie will negatively impact the banks, real estate offices, and the multiple businesses these staff used.

"The initial closure in November 2023 was a result of a fire in the building. This could have been repaired and the building reopened but instead strung staff along until this time where staff have been terminated. There have been some staff sent to other youth centre's in the province and taxpayers are paying the huge expense for hotels and travel and are continuing to do so. The fire incident was unfortunate and was a direct result of very poor management decisions. Luckily no one was seriously hurt with the way things were going.

"Currently, there are four managers that live in High Prairie that should also be facing the same options of termination or move to Edmonton or Lac La Biche where the places they manage are located rather than this extreme travel expense be the burden of the taxpayers. Now there is no youth centre in High Prairie, these four managers travel and expense this. There is no value received when flying and driving vehicles and is a enormous expense to Albertans. I'm calling on the Minister of CFS to relocate these four 4 managers as well. The closest building where these four managers manage is 345 km away (Lac La Biche). The second closest office 363 km (Edmonton). It only seems fair for the management to reside somewhat close to one of the buildings they manage. Why waste taxpayers' dollars for four managers to extensively travel when they could be relocated where the facilities are?

"I am requesting a response of timeline for the managers to be relocated and a timeline for the building to reopen or public announcement of the closure.

"What was the result of the environmental assessment at the High Prairie Centre? If there are environmental concerns, were these disclosed to the staff? According to OHS legislation, near miss incident reports should be filed for all staff exposed.

"This is a request for transparency and accountability for Albertans' tax dollars."

A trip down memory lane

Looking Back... May 1

May 1, 1945: The Grouard Mission post office opens with Rev. J. Forcade as postmaster.

May 1, 1968: *South Peace News* publishes photos of High Prairie Spring Prom candidates Barbara Basarab, Edith Chemerinski, Rita Dupuis, Mary Krawec, Gail McCullough, and Yvonne Williscroft.

May 1, 1970: The High Prairie Bay store, under the management of George Barnes, celebrates the company's 300th anniversary.

May 1, 1970: *South Peace News* subscriptions are advertised at $3.50 per year.

May 1, 1971: For the first time in its history, Alberta's freshwater fishing industry sets initial prices for all species of fish. The move prompts fishermen to better plan their harvest program.

May 1, 1971: Ronnie Burkett, 13, representing the High Prairie Optimist Club, places second at the Optimist Boy's Oratorical Contest in Edmonton.

May 1, 1973: Dave Heggie joins the staff at High Prairie Pharmacy.

May 1, 1973: High Prairie Farm Supply opens.

May 1, 1974: The SAAN store opens in High Prairie.

May 1, 1976: Rick McDonald opens a Mutual Life of Canada office in High Prairie.

May 1, 1981: Alberta's minimum wage is increased to $3.80 per hour.

May 1, 1989: A fire guts the home of Tom and Ann Stewart south of High Prairie.

May 1, 1992: Jim and Tiffany Badger open Mistunusk Gifts in the High Prairie Health Complex.

May 1, 1992: Jarvie farmer David Chatters wins the Reform party nomination in the Athabasca riding on the fourth ballot at Westlock.

May 1, 1995: The price of *South Peace News* increases to 70 cents.

May 1, 1995: Judy Shybunia is elected new High Prairie Chamber of Commerce president.

May 1, 1995: Don Shaw opens The Trading Post Pawn Shop in High Prairie.

May 1, 1997: A Kinuso farmer finds two dozen of his cattle dead in a creek. RCMP originally thought the cattle were stolen.

May 1, 2000: RaiLink reserves plea in High Prairie provincial court to May 29 on a charge of failure to prevent a fire from spreading Aug. 3, 1999.

May 1, 2001: High Prairie resident Bart Kuefler charges that sparks from Buchanan Lumber's mill ignite a fire which almost destroy his home.

May 1, 2006: Brighter Futures moves to its new home in the northwest corner of the High Prairie Super A Building.

May 1, 2007: Farmer's Restaurant opens in Sucker Cree.

May 1, 2007: A man and woman face cocaine trafficking charges after a search warrant is executed at a High Prairie hotel.

May 1, 2008: Brian Holmberg begins his job as the Town of High Prairie's economic development officer.

May 1, 2008: Faust's Violet Campiou receives an Esquao Award in Edmonton for her contributions to Alberta's Aboriginal communities.

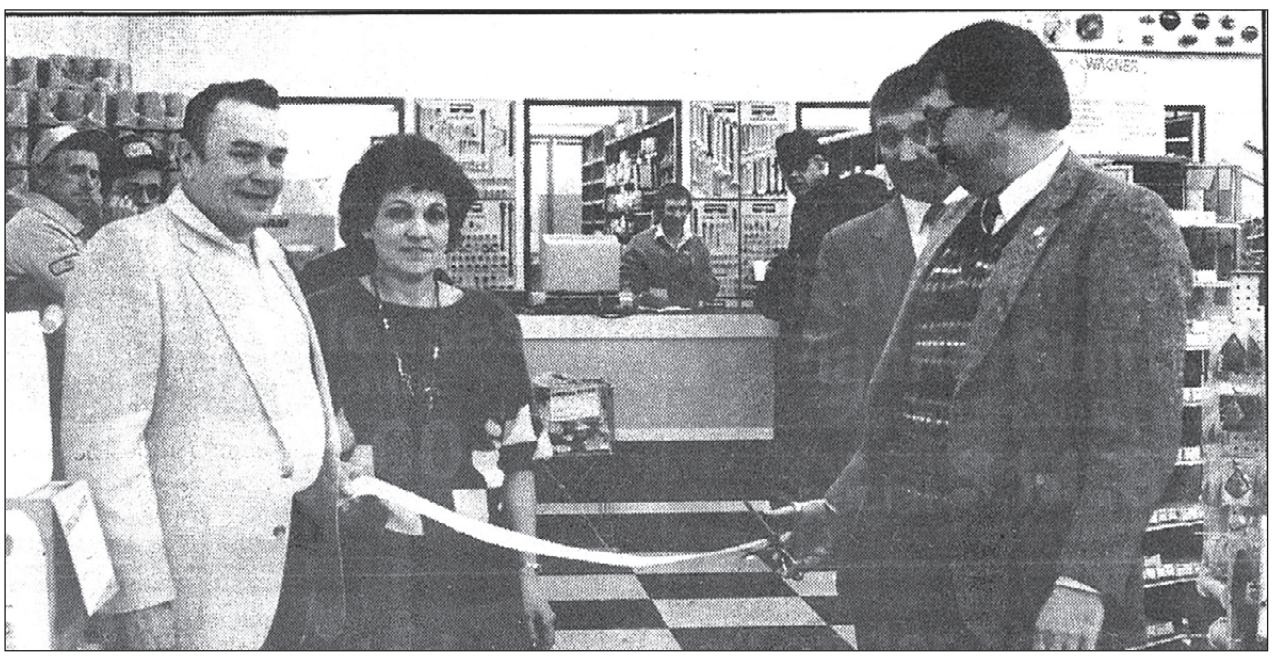
May 1, 2008: Five people are charged following a raid by High Prairie RCMP in Grouard, which nets cocaine and marijuana seizure.

May 1, 2011: The Town of High Prairie hires Nichols Applied Management as their economic development officer. Brian Holmberg, who was on the job for three years, leaves the position.

May 1, 2011: Sherry Poole begins her job as M.D. of Big Lakes economic development officer. She resigns July 18.

May 1, 2012: FHC Holding Ltd. announces that the High Prairie Fields Store is not one of 57 across the country slated for closure.

Do you remember?



Prairie Automotive in High Prairie celebrated its grand opening on March 30, 1987. In the photo published Feb. 4, 1987 in *South Peace News*, Mayor Don Lorenz, right, helps cut the ribbon with owners Bob and Helen Paquette. Behind Lorenz is Ed Fudali.

Gold-bearing quartz discovered

May 1, 1915
Grouard News

The Grouard News

A Weekly Paper published in the interests of Grouard and the Peace River Country at our office in Grouard, every Saturday.
Subscription $2.00 a Year.
To U.S. and other Countries $2.50
Advertising Rates on Application
R.S. BURNS, Editor and Manager

A "Jasper" rock indicating the presence of gold-bearing quartz was found this week within two or three miles of the town of Grouard.

B. Kelly, in charge of the government dredge in the Heart River here, picked up a rock which excited his curiosity, and he submitted it to a member of old prospectors in town, who have indicated that there is every indication of a deposit.

A further search in the vicinity in which the first rock was found revealed several large and better looking samples and a hole sunk close by is said to be shown abundances of a "ledge' of the golden alloy. Until the samples have been sent to Edmonton for analysis, Mr. Kelly will do nothing toward further investment of the claim.

The rock may be seen at Revillon Freres Trading Company store.

This is the second time that gold bearing quartz has been discovered in the neighbourhood. It is the intention of Mr. Kelly to make a thorough investigation.

Cricket club will practice Monday

The Secretary of the Grouard Cricket Club, Frank Gasson, says that word has been received from Edmonton that the first shipment of supplies are now on the way and should reach here by today's mail, in which case a practice of the club will be held next Monday evening on the ground just north of Filteau Block.

A meeting of the club will be held next Thursday evening at 6 p.m. for the election of a governing committee and other business and it is hoped that all who are in any way interested in sports will attend as the club intends to take up other branches of sport during the coming summer.

Practice will be held over until Thursday next if the supplies are not received or the weather isn't favourable.

Seeding in district well underway

Seeding operations in the Grouard district are well underway and by tonight it is estimated that fully 2,000 of acres of land in the districts around Grouard will be seeded while probably 3,000 acres more will be ready for seeding.

In line with the efforts of farmers throughout the entire province, the Grouard district will this year almost double the acreage to be cropped. Railway facilities by the market season for farm produce will afford an outlet for the entire production of the Grouard district this fall, and with market prices for produce soaring daily, the Grouard district will market the biggest crop of its history.

HIGH PRAIRIE & DISTRICT
Museum & Historical Society

Artifact-of-the-Week

The High Prairie Museum has in its collection a Canadian Army beret from 1939. Joseph Donald Basarab was born on May 9, 1917 in High Prairie. He was active in the army from April 9, 1940 to Aug. 14, 1945. Basarab was in Italy in 1940 and was a prisoner of war from Oct. 16, 1943 to April 17, 1945. He returned home in May 1945. To see this artifact and for all other inquiries, please call the museum at [780] 523-2601.

Woman proposing community garden in HP

Chris Clegg
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – A woman who recently moved back to the High Prairie area wants to start a community garden.

Chevannah Ward appeared at High Prairie town council's meeting April 23 to pitch the idea.

She told council with the rising costs of food, "I want to help people."

She envisions growing mixed vegetables where people could rent plots, harvest the vegetables and freeze them.

Berry plots were also mentioned.

Ward, who has the equipment to water the garden, asked that Jaycee Park be considered or another location at council's suggestion.

"Empty lots, I guess," she said.

Mayor and council applauded her efforts.

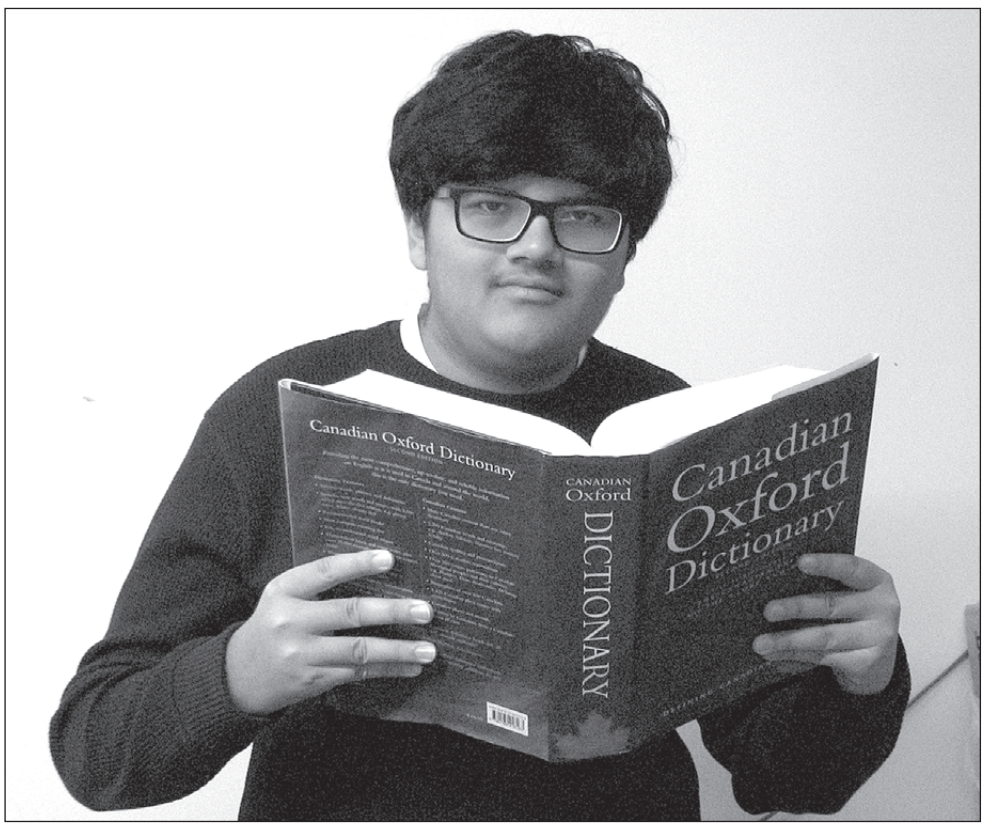
"A very noble cause," said Mayor Brian Panasiuk.

Concerns over the Jaycee Park location arose including vandalism and deer helping themselves to a snack.

"Deer also taste very good," quipped Councillor James Waikle.

However, the potential threat of attracting bears for an easy meal was not mentioned.

Council left the matter to CAO Bill McKennan to come up with ideas to move the project forward.



Aryan Kumar will represent northern Alberta at a national spelling bee in Toronto in May.

HP teen wins spelling bee title in Calgary

Wins in playoff!

Chris Clegg
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Sometimes it's not about how you get there, as long as you get there!

Aryan Ranjan Kumar, 13, of High Prairie, has qualified for the national spelling bee competition later this year at Toronto after winning the intermediate level at the Calgary Regional Spelling Bee April 6 at Renert School.

High Prairie and area residents may know Aryan as the teenager who spearheaded the chess club in High Prairie, proving his interest in intellectual endeavours is varied.

Aryan won the competition in Calgary but represents northern Alberta. How did that happen?

His mother entered him in the competition. To be eligible, a chapter must host the local spelling bee. Because there was not a High Prairie chapter, she entered her son in the Calgary chapter. What complicated matters is he was sick the week before and could not attend the Edmonton bee as planned. Calgary organizers were more than willing to let Aryan enter given the circumstances and he promptly won the competition.

Aryan is the son of parents Ranjan Sivakumar and Lavanya Authimoolam, of High Prairie. The entire family is grateful to Calgary organizers for letting Aryan enter.

The intermediate category is comprised of youth 12-14 years of age.

Aryan says he was given a list of 400 words to study before the competition. In addition to studying before the Calgary bee, he loves to read, which may have been the difference between winning and losing.

Competition was tight until there were two competitors left.

"There was a tie," he says. "There was new set of words."

However, these words were not part of the list he was given to study.

Back and forth they went with each successfully spelling their words. Until, that is, Aryan's opponent misspelled "effusion" by spelling it "iffusion" in about the tenth round.

Aryan corrected the spelling and had a chance to win by correctly spelling "iconology" which he did.

Aryan says he spent a lot of time studying the list and felt well-prepared.

"I just wanted to do my best," he says, adding it was first time he entered a spelling bee.

Moving forward, he has some dictionaries and spelling dictionaries to study before going to Toronto. He expects to receive a new set of words to practice before leaving for Toronto.

He also thanks the High Prairie Municipal Library for helping him prepare by lending him books.

2% tax hike approved by Big Lakes

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - Municipal property taxes in Big Lakes County is increasing by 2.5 per cent in all property classes.

At its regular meeting April 24, council gave third and final reading to a bylaw to increase mill rates for municipal purposes by 2.5 per cent.

Increasing the municipal mill rates was carefully considered, says Joey Sutton, manager of finance.

"While we recognize the impact that increasing mill rates has on our residents, we also recognize the need for sustainability and investing in responsible development of our infrastructure and our communities," Sutton says.

"Administration continues to search for efficiencies and cost savings wherever we can to reduce the burden on our residents and maximize value."

The mill rate for residential and farmland increase to 0.005064 from 0.004940.

Mill rates for non-residential, machinery and equipment, and linear properties and power generation increase to 0.016556 from 0.016152.

For a property assessed at $300,000, Sutton says a 2.5 per cent increase would add about $37 for municipal taxes and overall municipal taxes by about $110 with the increased assessment value.

North Gilwood – Triangle Councillor Jim Zabolotniuk trusts any increase in municipal mill rates next year will be not as significant as 2.5 per cent.

"Maybe next year we would increase the rate by one per cent or not at all," Zabolotniuk says.

Tax notices are scheduled to be sent out in early May.

Property taxes are due by June 30 unless ratepayers have a monthly payment plan.

Sutton says Big Lakes hopes it will be able able to accept credit cards for people to pay their taxes through Virtual City Hall if the system is fully in operation.

At its regular meeting March 27, council passed a motion to introduce any payment to the county by the computer online system and at the Big Lakes officer in High Prairie and Kinuso.

The increase comes after council approved a 4.5 per cent mill rate increase in 2023.

CAO David Reynolds says the proposed tax increase of 2.5 per cent is minimal compared to other municipalities.

"Many municipalities across Alberta are looking at property tax increases greater than 4-5 per cent, some even nine per cent," Reynolds said when the issue was discussed at the interim budget deliberations Dec. 4-5.

"We understand any increase in property tax can be a burden to our ratepayers."

Big Lakes taxpayers got relief in their taxes in 2022 after council voted to freeze mill rates after a five per cent increase in 2021.

Body found near school

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(Peace River) – A deceased human body was found in Peace River late April 22 on the grounds of T.A. Norris Middle School.

Peace River School Division released information on its website April 22 courtesy of the Peace Regional RCMP.

RCMP were made aware of public concerns regarding the incident and want to reassure there was never any threat of danger and the incident is in no way linked to the school located at 8701 – 95 St.

Police responded to a call in the evening and found the deceased.

After an investigation, police believe the death was non-criminal in nature.

As the death is non-criminal, no further information will be released by police.

"The Peace River School Division is grateful to have a strong relationship with the RCMP in each of our school communities," the news release states.

"It is always our priority to ensure our students are safe and secure while they are at our schools."

The school division requests anyone who notices any suspicious or criminal behaviour or activity to phone the local RCMP.

A similar situation occurred in High Prairie when the body of a deceased male was found on the grounds of St. Andrew's School early Feb. 15.

That incident appeared to be non-suspicious pending an autopsy by the medical examiner in Edmonton, High Prairie RCMP stated in a news release to report the incident.

Editorial

Your Opinion Counts!
Post on the Message Board at southpeacenews.com for instant feedback or write The Editor c/o South Peace News
P.O Box 1000,
High Prairie, Alberta Canada T0G 1E0

Local

Pathetic!

That's the best you've got!

High Prairie town council has experienced plenty of lows the last few months but the April 23 meeting has to rank as one of the worst.

Alberta Union of Public Employees vice president Sandra Azocar attended expressing concern over the potential permanent closure of the old High Prairie Youth Assessment Centre, now called the High Prairie Campus Based Treatment Centre.

The Alberta government says it is studying a possible reopening of the centre after last year's fire, but AUPE contends a reopening is unlikely.

At stake here is 30 full time jobs. At an estimated $50,000 each which is $1.5 million lost to the local economy. Add to that the youth who desperately need the centre for treatment and you have an extremely valuable facility located in High Prairie.

Azocar asked council if they had done anything. What did Mayor Brian Panasiuk say?

"We've lobbied a little!"

What a crass, laissez-faire attitude!

With all respect to Panasiuk, this is a big issue. A very big issue. Lobby a little! You must be joking!

Just as appalling is not one member of council attending cared enough to straighten Panasiuk out. You can give a pass to councillors Sacha Martens and Judy Stenhouse, who are brow-beaten by council many times when they speak.

But where were councillors Donna Deynaka, John Dunn, Therese Yacyshyn and James Waikle?

Need even more confusion? Dunn asked Azocar if she had a "template" meaning a fact sheet that could assist council in writing letters.

The problem is, Panasiuk later said he had correspondence with Lesser Slave Lake MLA Scott Sinclair about the matter. Not the premier, or Children's Services minister, but only Sinclair. Why not talk to or write everyone? Make a big stink! Not a great effort! "Lobbied a bit" was the sordid truth.

The next question is, why did Panasiuk not tell council he had done this, or at least shared the response with the rest of council? Was this not important enough for council to know?

Panasiuk replied in an email he did share the matter with council. Then why was Dunn asking the questions he did at council? Why did not one other councillor at the meeting tell Dunn that Panasiuk had shared that information?

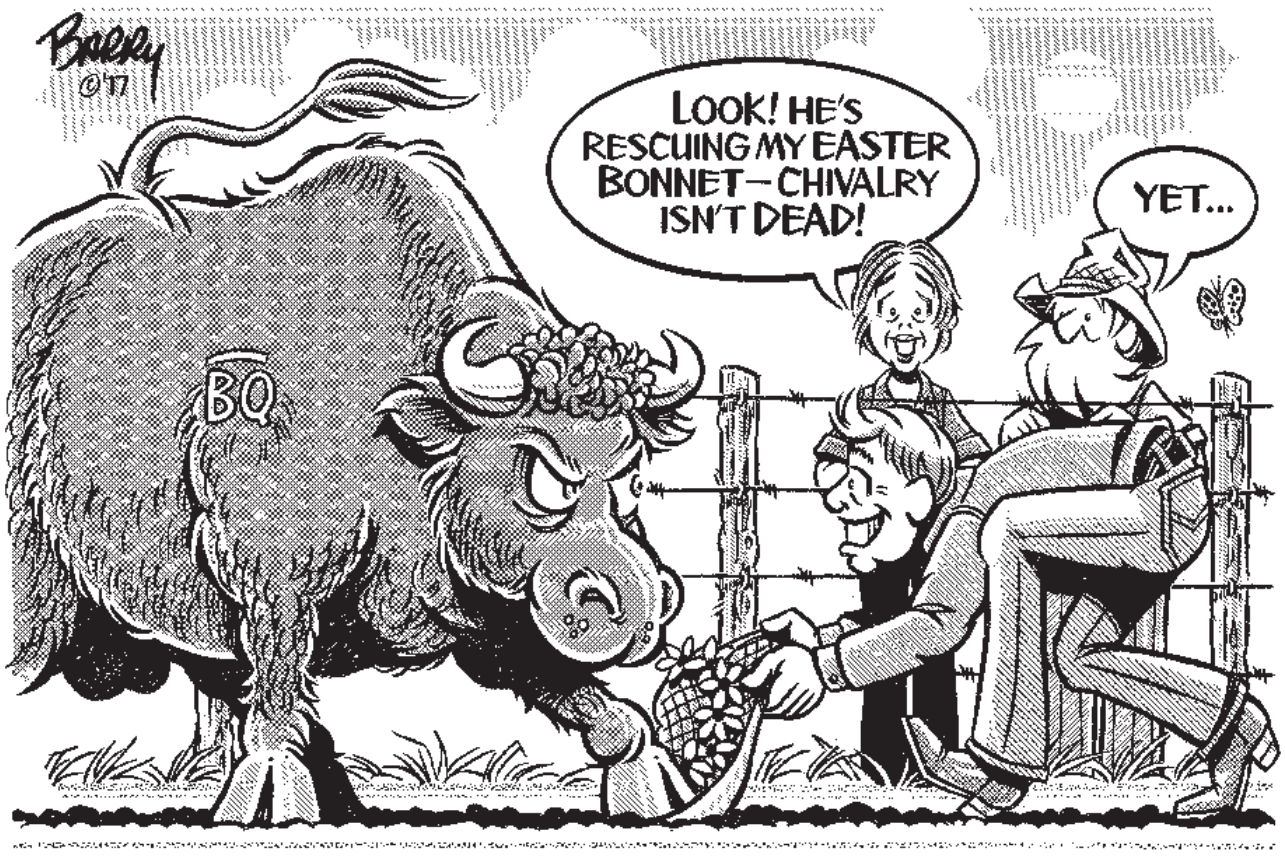
Even more confusion arises. Panasiuk was written an email on March 21 informing him of the situation. *South Peace News* and other parties in government were sent a copy. Yet, this matter was not deemed important enough to be placed on the April 8 agenda 19 days later after Panasiuk received the email. Dunn was obviously not told, Martens has written a letter asking why she was not told, and Stenhouse was not told. Deynaka is on record as not being told. Other councillors are not answering the question.

Why was this email not shared with the entire council? *South Peace News* has asked a copy of the email be forwarded to prove the entire council was told. We are still waiting.

Azocar writes in a letter to the editor on page 7 this week that High Prairie deserves better.

Regarding this putrid effort from the mayor in keeping the youth treatment facility in High Prairie, we echo her sentiment.

Chris Clegg



A yard that cleans itself

Regional commentary
by Jeff Burgar

Spring cleaning reminds me. A fellow tells his wife, "If it wasn't for men, we would all be living in caves, probably not cooking over a fire. We would still be in the Stone Age, maybe even worse."

Wife is curious.

"How do you figure that?" she asks.

This could have been on an episode of According to Jim. It also sounds like something Kramer on *Seinfeld* would come up with. How about Tim Allen talking about a new power tool? "Woof, woof." Maybe Joey on *Friends* explaining to Monica how to improve her cooking output. Any of them. But onward!

"Well," says the fellow, "nothing against the male of the species, but their natural instinct is to lay around, keep an eye out for danger, and basically, think of ways to get out of work."

"Oh," says wife. "Like you and your buddies down at corporate office. Do as little as possible, and cook up ways to get raises and bonuses?"

Says he.

"Don't forget the vast majority of civil servants or any union members. Wasn't that your brother-in-law who said his union was working hard to get Valentine's Day made a statutory holiday? And aren't they working on a four-day work week now? A solid 32 hours per week?"

"If you are making a point here," she says. "I still don't know what it is, other than to crap all over men. Mind you," as she probably pointed to his tummy bulge, "they often deserve it."

In reply, he says, "Have you ever noticed that, apart from a few outliers here and there, women will work night and day, super hard, in sickness and health? They go to work, come home, and are still working. Unpacking groceries. Cleaning the house. Picking up toys. Feeding everybody. Letting the cats and dogs in and out. Washing dishes. Putting the kids to bed. Maybe watching a bit of TV. Zonking out. Waking first. Getting the kids ready for school. Breakfast. Backpacks. Then going to work."

"That is indeed my day," says the wife. "The only difference between me and single women is, they don't have to clean up after a guy. Unless they have allowed one to move in. But if they have kids, it's the same story. I still don't see a point."

"Well, it's obvious. If men left it up to women, women would still be cleaning out the cave, slicing up the animals men bring home from the hunt, cooking them if a man had brought home some fire, looking after kids, maybe blocking off the cave entrance with a bunch of other families to keep out bad animals while the men and big boys defended the tribe from everything. But it is the inherent laziness of men that has brought us to today. Every time a woman complained, a man invented a washing machine. Or a vacuum cleaner. And fire. And electricity and ovens and lights. Everything! Running water. Flush toilets, The list is endless. Even beer!

"All so they wouldn't have to pitch in helping with chores. But look how wonderful this all turned out for everybody. Seriously honey, aren't guys the greatest?"

"Absolutely dear," she purred. "Now go invent a place in the garden to sleep."

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1-800-668-1507

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www.highprairie.com

HP deserves better!

Town needs youth treatment centre to reopen

What's going to happen to the Campus Based Treatment Centre in High Prairie? Is it closed permanently? Will it be refurbished after last November's fire? Will it reopen?

Confusion surrounds the future of this treatment centre, which existed to provide vital and effective treatment for youths with severe behavioural issues.

That confusion is the result of mixed messages coming from the Alberta government, which runs centres like these across the province.

The government's message to the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees (AUPE), which represents workers at the centre, was that it will remain closed "for the foreseeable future." That literally means the government cannot see a future where the centre reopens.

The centre's workers lost their jobs or were forced to transfer hundreds of kilometres away from home. The government told them the closure is permanent. Their jobs aren't coming back.

The message to the public has been different. The government tells the public the centre is being studied and they may even make a decision by August.

Why is it taking the government nine months to decide if the centre will reopen?

If the building can't be repaired, why not a temporary treatment centre until a new one is built?

In the meantime, High Prairie is left to suffer the negative consequences of the centre's closure.

When fully staffed, the youth treatment centre employed more than 30 people. These are skilled workers with full time jobs who serve the community. Losing their jobs will have a significant economic impact on the town.

Let us also spare a thought for the young people who need the treatment that only these centres can provide. They now have to travel hundreds of kilometres away to get help in Edmonton or Lethbridge. There is another centre in Lac La Biche, but it's closed until June.

What will happen to these young people? What will happen when they are torn from their families and from the communities? From their support networks?

Far from home, these children are more likely to abscond. Some will end up living on the streets, where they'll be exposed to drugs and crime.

We must prevent these kids from becoming a statistic. This month, Alberta's Child and Youth Advocate revealed 47 young Albertans who received help died in the previous 12 months. They all deserve better.

High Prairie deserves better!

AUPE members believe it's time to demand better from the provincial government.

For the sake of the children, for the sake of their families, and for the sake of this community, we demand better.

Sandra Azocar,
Vice-President,
Alberta Union
of Public Employees.

Editor's note: *AUPE has several vice presidents. Azocar represents the northwest area of Alberta.*

Do we owe Trudeau a debt of gratitude?

Doug Firby,
Former Editorial Page Writer,
Calgary Herald,
Courtesy of Troy Media.

It was so improbable that, at first, I thought it was just a silly dream.

But, no, there it is on the internet (and therefore must be true). Alberta Premier Danielle Smith did, in fact, say Prime Minister Justin Trudeau did something right.

Trudeau saved the faltering Trans Mountain project when no private sector operator wanted to keep it alive. And Alberta, so eager to attack the prime minister these days, owed him a huge debt of gratitude. (To be clear, she didn't say that part.)

It's been six years since Trudeau and then Finance Minister Bill Morneau convinced the Liberal cabinet to buy Trans Mountain. The project, key to Alberta's export ambitions, seemed doomed when private developer Houston-based Kinder Morgan Inc. signaled that it planned to pull out over frustration with British Columbia's NDP government. The purchase saved the controversial project from drowning under a flurry of logistical, regulatory and social barriers.

And it ensured a great deal more Alberta oil could be sent abroad.

"I'm pleased that they stepped in to de-risk and finish the project," says Smith.

Not to be seen as too gracious, she added that Ottawa ideally would have also supported the now-dead Energy East and Northern Gateway projects. Fat chance, given Eastern Canada's opposition to those pipelines.

The expansion project twins the old 1,150-km Trans Mountain pipeline between Alberta and British Columbia, nearly tripling the system's export facilities. From 300,000 barrels per day, the twinned pipeline can deliver up to 890,000 barrels per day.

Environmentalists were infuriated and baffled by Trudeau's move to save Trans Mountain. The old pipeline, built in 1953, has had a history that can be described as spotty, at best. Since 1961, 84 spills have been reported. Nearly one-third of those occurred along the pipeline, and 20 incidents were linked to the release of crude oil from the pipeline. Not a happy environmental story.

The expansion also seemed to be at odds with Trudeau's ongoing campaign to dramatically curb Canada's carbon emissions. But, in a show of principle that may surprise some, he had a promise to keep. When he launched his bid for Liberal leadership in 2012, he vowed to back Alberta's energy sector.

The approval of Trans Mountain in 2016 affirmed his commitment.

The irony is delicious. The current Alberta government, it appears, wants the feds to stay out of its business – until they need their help. Those Trudeau-hating oilpatch workers might want to pause and consider that – like it or not – some of them owe their jobs to the huge financial risk the federal Liberals took on this pipeline.

More than a risk!

The enormously costly Trans Mountain project will almost certainly be a money-loser for the taxpayer-backed federal government. When it bought the pipeline in 2018 for $4.5 billion, it was estimated the entire project would cost $7.4 billion. The final tab is not yet known, but the latest estimate is in the neighbourhood of $34 billion. "Staggering" hardly seems to be an adequate description for the number.

Watchers might rightly wonder how the final tally could reach a point that Tristen Goodman, chief executive of Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (EPAC), called "obscene." Trans Mountain Corp. attributed the rise in price to inflationary pressures, floods and later wildfires in British Columbia, route changes to avoid environmentally sensitive areas, labour shortages and agreements with Indigenous communities. It also had to spend money on cultural protection for the 83,000 artifacts

Cont. on page 10

Following is a list of the most read stories on southpeacenews.com over the last 14 days, effective Thursday, April 25, 2024.

1. More secrecy emerges over land decision
[posted Saturday, April 13]

2. 'Justice for Kennysha'
[posted Thursday, April 11]

3. Fate of Youth treatment centre in question
[posted Tuesday, April 16]

4. Family fulfills Sasakamoose's dream
[posted Friday, April 19]

5. Refusal to buy land praised by delegation
[posted Friday, April 19]

6. Editorial: People were hoodwinked
[posted Saturday, April 13]

7. Twyla delivers the beef - and lots of it!
[posted Friday, April 12]

8. Bowers takes over Lesser Slave UCP presidency
[posted Saturday, April 20]

9. Sold out!
[posted Thursday, April 18]

10. Obituary: Steve Kushneryk
[posted Friday, April 19]

Be sure to check southpeacenews.com for regular updates on *South Peace News'* two-time Canadian Community Newspapers Association award-winning website! More stories, more photos, more reading, more entertainment!

To all fire protection crews in the regions served by this newspaper. The service you provide is vital and should never be taken for granted. Here is hoping for a quiet wildfire season in 2024.

To anyone using handicapped parking spaces when not required. These special places are designated for people who need them. Please respect the space provided and perhaps be thankful you do not need them!

Letters to the editor policy

South Peace News welcomes readers to write letters to the editor. A maximum of 300 words is preferred but not necessary. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. Please send letters to *South Peace News,* Box 1000, High Prairie, Alta., T0G 1E0, or fax to (780) 523-3039; or please E-mail to southpeacenews@hotmail.com.

Annual egg drop returning to Girouxville

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Girouxville) – Paroisse Notre Dame de Lourdes Parish in Girouxville will be holding its third Annual Egg Drop Fundraiser June 2 to help raise funds for new front steps.

The Paroisse's Front Steps Fundraising Committee worked hard to raise enough funds to replace the dilapidated steps that had become a hazard to church goers, with steps being replaced last summer. The total cost of the project was slightly over $360,000, and the committee is trying to raise enough to finish paying off the last $68,000.

"The proceeds of this fundraiser are to put towards the main entrance stairs and lower hall access for those with mobility challenges," says committee member Karen Benoit.

"The egg drop itself in on June 2, 2024 at 12 p.m. following Mass and weather pending, the alternate date is June 9."

Three pre-selected judges measured the winning entry in the egg drop in 2023. Two are shown above. Standing is Denis Boisvert, kneeling is Maurice Blanchette, surrounded by eggs. This year's drop is June 2 with an alternate date of June 9, if required.

Benoit says a hot dog lunch is planned and there will also be a candy drop following the egg drop. The egg drop will consist of colourful plastic eggs and are being sold off with corresponding numbered tickets, the eggs to be dropped from a helicopter onto a target on the grotto grounds.

"By purchasing tickets, it supports our endeavours to maintain a building that has been part of our village for over 90 years," says Benoit.

"Every year our community hosts a pilgrimage that welcomes many people from outside our village," she adds.

Benoit explains the three eggs that land closest to the pin will be the winners of the prizes. Three pre-selected judges from the community will be on-hand to determine which of the eggs are closest. Prizes awarded will be $1,300 for first place, $800 for second place and $500 for third place.

"The pilgrimage is why our church is known in our area, this is usually celebrated outdoors at the grotto and gathering follows at the lower hall of the church," she says.

"Many churches are seen as community hubs; we would like to continue to maintain a space for people to come celebrate their faith. Our numbers may not be large at regular Sunday Mass, but we continue to celebrate our annual pilgrimage in August, as well as many weddings, baptisms and funerals that may gather many people throughout the year."

Tickets can be purchased by contacting Diane at (780) 618-8207, Edna at (780) 837-6070, Simone at (780) 837-4850, Carmen at (780) 837-6855, or Karen at (780) 618-7297. Tickets are $20 each with 550 tickets printed.

Big Lakes County

NOTICE FOR DUST CONTROL 2024 RATES

In 2024 Big Lakes County will be providing dust control to County residents who want dust suppressant applied to the roadway adjacent to their residence. Residents must complete an application and pay an application fee.

Applicants will receive one application of dust suppressant to cover **150 metres of road at a cost of $700.00 + GST.**
Additional metres will be available at a rate of $4.70 per metre.

Application forms are available at:
Big Lakes County
5305-56 Street
Box 239
High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0
Phone: (780) 523-5955
www.biglakescounty.ca/resources/forms

Deadline for applications is: WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024.

Late applications will only be eligible for the second round of dust control applied in August.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

High Prairie, McLennan, Falher, Tangent, Eaglesham, Donnelly, St. Isidore, Girouxville

Our Doors Are OPEN

McLennan Victory Life Church
010 Railway Ave., McLennan, AB Pastor: Todd & Emma Moore
Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m. Children Service: 10:00 a.m.
Friday Night Youth Group: 7:00 p.m.
Office Hours: M-T 8:30 a.m.-Noon Phone: 780-324-3039
Website: www.mclennanvictory.com Email: office@mclennanvictory.com

McLennan United Church
020 - 2nd Ave (Behind Home Hardware), McLennan, AB
Sunday Church Service: 10:00 a.m. Presiders: The whole people of God.
Come join us for Worship & Fellowship.
Visitors & new members are welcome.
Phone: (780) 324-3771 or (780) 324-3688

St. Paul's Catholic Church
4633-52 Ave., High Prairie, AB
Saturday Mass: 7:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.
2nd & 4th Sunday
of the month Mass at J.B. Woods
(5101 38 Street) 3:30 p.m.
Phone: 780-523-3140

St. Mark's Anglican Church
4701 - 53 Ave., High Prairie, AB
Colleen Greer
Sunday Service: 11:00 a.m.
Pleasantview Lodge (4600 Pleasantview Dr)
1st & 4th Sunday
McLennan every 3rd Sunday: 2:30 p.m.
Phone: 780-523-6323

High Prairie Victory Life Church
4915-52 Ave., High Prairie, AB Pastor Phil Lutton
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Phone: 780-523-3398 Website: hpvlc.com Email: hpvictorylife@gmail.com

Paroisse Notre Dame de Lourdes
4904-50 Ave., Girouxville, AB
Father Hansel Nwachukwuoji, SMMM
Phone: 780-323-4268
Email: girouxvilleparish@gmail.com

Girouxville Sunday mass @ 10:30 a.m.
Daily mass: Monday, Tuesday
& Saturday @ 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Thursday &
Friday @ 7:00 p.m.

Tangent - St. Martyrs des Canadiens
and Eaglesham - St. Francois Xavier
alternate Saturday and Sunday masses.
Sunday masses: 9:00 a.m.
Saturday masses: winter @ 4:00 p.m.
summer @ 7:00 p.m.

Please contact Father Hansel for
more information: 780-323-4268

St. John the Baptist Cathedral Parish
2010, 1st St. West, Box 357
McLennan, AB T0H 2LO
Father Eucharius Ndzefemiti, SDV
Office: 324-3583
Fax: 324-3588

Father's Cell #: (780) 837-4812
Email: eucharistsddv@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tues - Fri - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Weekend Masses:
Saturday: 4:00 p.m. Manoir -du-Lac
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Guy
Sunday: 10:30 a.m. McLennan
Weekday Masses:
Tues - Sat: 9 a.m. at Cathedral
Wed: 4 p.m. at Manoir-du-Lac
Eucharistic Adoration:
Thursday after Mass
Confessions: First Friday of every month - One hour before mass begins or upon request
Rosary:
Tues - Sat before morning Mass

Redeemer Lutheran Church
5105 53 Ave. (Hwy 2),
High Prairie, AB
Reverend Terry Goerz
Riverside Plaza beside Subway
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.
Phone: 780-523-7656

High Prairie United Church
5105 53 Ave. (Hwy 2)
High Prairie, AB
Services 4th Sunday
of the month at 4:00 p.m.
Held at Redeemer Lutheran
Phone: 780-523-2641

Milestone Christian Church
5105 53 Ave. (Hwy 2),
High Prairie, AB Pastor Val Orena
Riverside Plaza beside Subway
Saturday Worship: 6:00 p.m.
Phone: 780-906-6855
A Filipino-International
Christ-Loving Community

High Prairie Church of the Nazarene
4900 59th Ave, High Prairie
Sunday Church: 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer
Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Phone: 403-928-5999
pastortracystewart@gmail.com

Paroisse Ste Anne Parish
1 Ave. SE, Falher, AB Fr. Jean-Cornelis Nkuanga
Mass for the months of: **May & June**
Saturday: 5:00 p.m. - St. Isidore - St. Isidore
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - Sainte Anne - Falher
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. - Sacre Coeur - Donnelly
Phone: 780-837-2151
Facebook page: Paroisse Ste Anne Parish

To list your church in the church directory in print and online at *southpeacenews.com* and *smokyriverexpress.com* Phone: 780 523-4484 or Email: sales@citylive.com

The South Peace News

The Page

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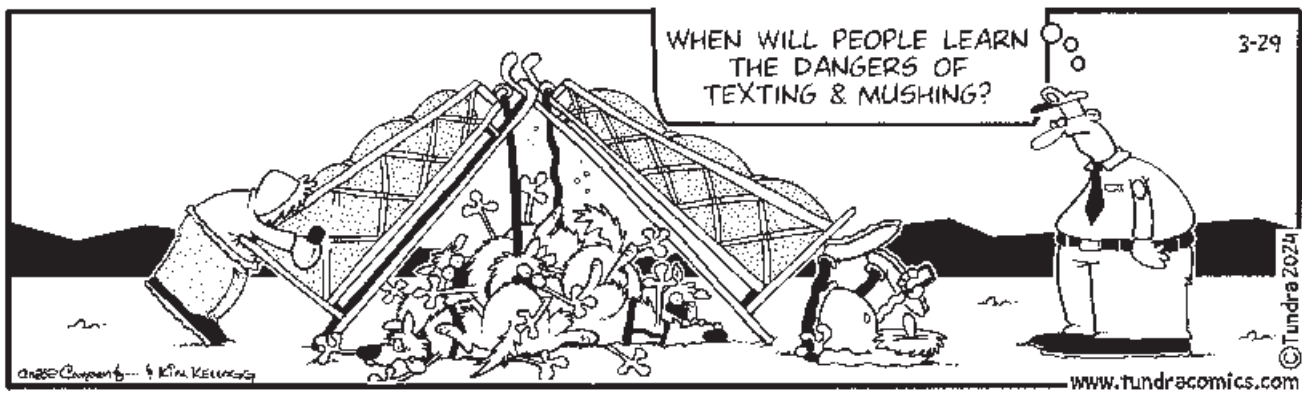

The Page's sage advice of the week: Never go to a weight loss clinic where are the owners are sumo wrestlers!

* * * * * * * * *

The Page is so cheap he goes to the movies by himself so he doesn't have to share popcorn!

* * * * * * * * *

The Page is confused. Each time he goes to the bar happy hour suddenly ends! Hmmm!

* * * * * * * * *

The Page is even more confused!

How come you see less and less milk cardboard containers and more plastic containers? I thought we were getting away from plastic?

* * * * * * * * *

We see the Alberta government is rejecting what it calls an unconstitutional cap on plastic production.

Minister of Environment and Protected Areas Rebecca Schulz says, "Every modern convenience and necessity is either made from or contains plastic, from surgical gloves to your iPhone . . . despite this (the federal government) has announced (they) intend to cap the production of plastics in Canada."

Schulz calls the move "a slap in the face to Alberta and our province's petrochemical industry, and the thousands of Albertans who work in it," and "plastics production is a grown part of Alberta's economy. . ."

She adds if Alberta produces less plastic products, China will simply produce more and the net result will not be less plastic use. She could be right.

But somehow, we have to stop plastics pollution in this world.

The Page is all for trying to figure out a way to use less plastics but admits to being selfish.

"Those wooden straws drive me crazy! They get all soggy before I finish my slush!"

A suggestion: maybe a few less slushes?

* * * * * * * * *

The Page was having coffee the other morning at A&W (shameless plug for owner Louise Owens) when a distinguished gentlemen told him that the human brain remembers only the important things.

The Page has no idea who he was talking to?

* * * * * * * * *

Researchers from Mr. Rooter Canada did a study to find out how much water Canadians drink. Findings were passed along to this publication.

Alarming to discover is every province drinks less than the recommended amount of 1,372 mL per day.

Nova Scotia is the more dehydrated province, drinking 575 mL less than one should while stubble jumpers in Saskatchewan drink the most – 1,233 ml per day, but still not enough.

They also revealed Nestle Pure Water is the most popular brand narrowly edging out Aquafina and Dasani.

The Page likes his High Prairie tap water and Smart water.

Anyway, drink up, everyone! Enjoy some wine or beer but don't forget the water!

* * * * * * * * *

Alberta released its list of most popular baby names for 2023!

Olivia and Noah top the list – again!

Olivia tops the list for the 11th straight year. The Page sees all the confused teachers years from now. Roll call! Olivia number one! Olivia number two. Olivia number three in each classroom!

Noah is tops for the fifth straight year.

Some of the "plant" names chosen were Ivy, Rose, Juniper, Poppy, Azalea, Wren, River, Meadow and Flora. Religious names include Eve, Noah, Mohammed and Gabriel. Pop culture names included Aretha, Lennon, Presley, Hendrix and fairy tale names like Tiana, Jasmine, Aurora, Ariel and Belle.

Ironically, The Page stumbled across a list of names banned in New Zealand. We do not want to pick on the Kiwis because every country does ban certain names.

Prince dethroned King for the first time in 13 years. You have to give the Kiwis credit for perseverance. They keep trying to name their kids Prince or King but are denied by the government.

Other names banned? Messiah, Princess, Rogue, Sovereign, Captain, Isis, Chief, Empress, Pope, Notoriety and Fanny were rejected. Fanny is slang in New Zealand for female genitalia.

Others you might find surprising are Judge, Justice, Justus, KC, Knight, Queen, and XIX. Who would name their kid XIX?

* * * * * * * * *

Have a great week, everyone!

Hope it is better than Norm Peterson on Cheers when he said, "It's a dog-eat-dog world and I'm wearing Milk Bone underwear!'

RV Lots FOR SALE
or lease
Near Lesser Slave Lake in Kinuso area
- near Spruce Point Park
780-940-6428
sunsetpark.ca
Only 48 min. east from High Prairie!

NOTICE OF NOMINATION DAY

LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTION ACT
BY-ELECTION WARD 2 – MCLENNAN, ALBERTA

LOCAL JURISDICTION: Holy Family Catholic Separate School Division, Province of Alberta

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Day is May 15, 2024 and that nomination for election of candidates for the following office will be received at the location of the local jurisdiction offices set out below between the period of April 18th, 2024 and ending at 12:00 noon on Nomination Day.

Office of Catholic School Trustee - Ward 2 McLennan
Number of Vacancies: 1

Locations (address) of Local Jurisdiction Offices:

Holy Family Catholic Regional Division
10307-99 St
Peace River, Alberta T8S 1K1

Ecole Providence School
151 3rd Avenue NW
McLennan, Alberta T0H 2L0

Holy Family
Catholic Regional Division

DATED at the Town of Peace River in the Province of Alberta, this 18th day of April 2024.
Zachary Silva (Returning Officer)

Call 780-624-3956 or visit hfcrd.ab.ca for more information

Medic Alert
ALWAYS ON CALL
www.medicalert.ca
For more information
1-800-668-1507

Weekly Horoscope

Aries – March 21 – April 20: Your friends have stepped up to support you, and it is time to get together and enjoy one another's company. Think about an activity that everyone can get behind.

Taurus – April 21 – May 21: The people around you may work more slowly than you, so you will likely need to be patient this week while working on a particular project. Eventually things will work out.

Gemini – May 22 – June 21: Exercise caution when dealing with people who promise big returns on your investments right now. Avoid financial dealings with anyone you have not fully vetted.

Cancer – June 22 – July 22: Some people would like to use flattery to get you to do what they want. However, you are too savvy to fall for people who may be guiding you in the wrong direction.

Leo – July 23 – Aug. 23: Loved ones and friends in your life deserve your time and energy right now. Figure out a way to cut down on hours spent on the job this week.

Virgo – Aug. 24 – Sept. 22: Things going on in your life right now may be a bit more confusing than you anticipated. It can be stressful, but with some assistance from others you will get through it.

Libra – Sept. 23 – Oct. 23: Someone in your life who has not always been on your side has been changing his or her ways lately. You may want to re-evaluate the relationship soon.

Scorpio – Oct. 24 – Nov. 22: You have been working hard to avoid conflict with someone close to you, but it could start to feel like more effort than you can care to keep. up.

Sagittarius – Nov. 23 – Dec. 21: An interesting travel opportunity is coming your way. When the news arrives, take advantage of it and start planning your itinerary.

Capricorn – Dec. 22 – Jan. 20: Is your schedule flexible right now? Try to rearrange things to take advantage of some last-minute recreational opportunities. You deserve to have more fun.

Aquarius – Jan. 21 – Feb. 18: You may be feeling moody and introspective right now. Take time to evaluate your dreams and the thoughts going through your head. There may be common threads.

Pisces – Feb. 19 – March 20: Do not let some ambiguous feedback adversely affect your mood. You will never be able to please everyone, so focus on those people who are on your side.

Celebrity Birthday Calendar

Date	Celebrity	Claim to Fame	Year
May 1	Chardonnet	Inventor of artificial silk	1839
May 1	Calamity Jane	American frontierswoman	1852
May 1	Kate Smith	God Bless America singer	1907
May 1	Dann Florek	Law & Order actor	1950
May 1	Tim McGraw	Country singer	1967
May 2	Benjamin Spock	US pediatrician	1903
May 2	Donatella Versace	Italian fashion designer	1955
May 2	Dwayne Johnson	"The Rock" pro wrestler	1972
May 2	David Beckham	Englsih soccer legend	1975
May 3	Machiavelli	Italian politician/writer	1469
May 3	Bing Crosby	White Christmas singer	1903
May 3	Stu Hart	Stampede Wrestling owner	1915
May 3	Doug Henning	Canadian magician	1947
May 4	B.Cristofori	Piano inventor	1655
May 4	Audrey Hepburn	My Fair Lady actress	1929
May 4	Pia Zadora	US actress/singer	1954
May 4	Randy Travis	US country music singer	1959
May 5	Karl Marx	Communist Manifesto author	1818
May 5	John Stetson	US hat manufacturer	1830
May 5	Ann B. Davis	Brady Bunch actress (Alice)	1926
May 5	Tina Yothers	Family Ties actress	1973
May 6	Robert Peary	1st to reach North Pole	1856
May 6	Sigmund Freud	"Father of Psychology"	1856
May 6	Orson Welles	Citizen Kane actor	1915
May 6	Bob Seger	Silver Bullet Band singer	1945
May 7	Robert Browning	English poet [Pied Piper]	1812
May 7	Tchaikovsky	1812 Overture composer	1840
May 7	Eva Perón [Evita]	Argentine First Lady	1919
May 7	Owen Hart	Calgary Stampede wrestler	1965

Smoky Ryders taking issue to heart

Bikers Spreading Awareness of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Workshop May 25

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(McLennan) – According to the Canadian government, approximately 4,500 people die in the country each year by suicide.

That is equivalent to just over 12 people dying by suicide every day, and countless others are battling with thoughts of suicide.

According to their statistics, more than 200 people in Canada attempt suicide each day. That is why McLennan's Smoky River Ryders Riding Club (SRRRC) has decided to host its first Bikers Spreading Awareness of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention workshop.

SRRRC President Tammy Stout says suicide affects many families in our region and it's important to get help out to those who may be thinking of ending their lives.

"I believe focusing on mental health and suicide prevention is extremely important," says Stout.

"Suicide has affected everyone with either having a family member or friend lost to suicide, or even thinking of suicide themselves," she adds.

The seminar will be held at the McLennan Campground on May 25 with the gathering starting at 11 a.m.

"Suicide is becoming a huge concern, and we want to have resources available as well as an alternative to suicide," says Stout.

The event will begin at 11:30 a.m, with opening remarks being given by Stout at noon. Resource Centre for Suicide Prevention's Casey Szmata will be on hand afterwards to speak about the resources available to the community.

Indigenous mental health therapist Tereca Ford will also give a presentation to help individuals collect information about what can be done to help friends or family thinking about suicide.

"One of our past Ryders struggles with mental health and this was initially requested on his behalf. I myself lost my brother to suicide in 1990, and we have young people who are struggling with mental health and having suicidal thoughts," says Stout, explaining why the club thought it was so important to host a seminar.

"We want to help and be a part of the solution and not sit back and hear of another loved one lost to suicide," she adds.

Hot dogs and refreshments will be available after the workshop, with all proceeds going to suicide prevention and mental health.

"This is my own personal opinion, but social media is a huge factor in increased suicides with bullying, dares being spread around social media, people are very mean when behind a keyboard," Stout says.

"People have extensive responsibilities, and basic necessities going up but not our wages to match the expense. The world is in a bad place with inflation, what is going on in the Ukraine, in Gaza, and other things, there are a lot of pressures in life and individuals are having a really hard time coping."

Stout says her own family experienced the pain of losing a loved one to suicide when her brother, Lenny, took his in 1990. She says she understands the sadness people go through when they lose a loved one to suicide, and she hopes that this seminar will help to bring some of the suicide topics to light.

> *"Asking for help is a sign of strength and we want to empower people to reach out," says Tammy Stout, Smoky Ryders president.*

"Losing Lenny was truly the worst day of my entire family's life," says Stout.

"Thirty-four years ago, there was very little education and resources available to people on where to get help and how to deal with life's stress. I believe that reaching out for help is one of the most powerful moments and you need to be proud of asking for help."

The club will also have a board available for attendees to post a picture of their loved one lost to suicide.

Everyone is welcome to attend the afternoon to share stories and learn from others.

Stout says the Smoky River Ryders women have also started a Women's Support Group to gather women together to support one another. She says more information about this can be obtained at the May 25 event.

"These events are meant for us to come together and talk about things going on in our lives that we may need some help in coping with, or we just need talk to let it off our chests," explains Stout.

"We may have something we are proud of and just we want to share with others our successes. We share food and we share stories."

The club will also be hosting a Mother's Day walk on May 12 starting at 2 p.m. The walk will begin at the McLennan Ecole Providence School yard.

"We will take a nice stroll through McLennan, get some fresh air, and exercise and celebrate each other as women, as mothers, as caregivers," says Stout.

"We have a Facebook page called Women's Support Group, where we post the next meeting date location and time. If you would like to join, please do so, the more women we have the more ideas we can do things for one another."

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Trudeau

Cont. from page 7

uncovered during construction.

Goodman said the federal government's oversight, while needed, has failed to be "efficient and cost-effective." With hurdles like these, Canadians may never see a megaproject like this again.

The upshot for Canadians is that when the feds sell the pipeline -as promised – it will almost certainly take a bath at our expense. And yet, even with the breathtaking cost, the project was worthwhile and arguable badly needed for the country's economy.

In announcing the purchase, Morneau said the project is in the national interest and that proceeding with it will preserve jobs, reassure investors, and get resources to world markets. For Alberta, the real value – and one of the key reasons this project became so important – is that oil producers will at least be set free from the "take-it-or-leave-it" pricing for oilsands product.

Alberta's oil, known as Western Canadian Select (WCS), is among the cheapest crude oils in the world according to personal finance site WOWA. On average, WCS traded with a discount of US$17.2 relative to U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI). In November 2018, WCS discount relative to WTI reached a record US$46/bbl.

This forced discount on Canadian oil is criminal and unjustifiable. Now, with the opportunity to export more of it to world markets, Alberta producers may finally see pricing fairness. That, in turn, will bolster government coffers with more revenue, easing the sting of the project's cost and making the Trans Mountain gamble seem like not such a bad investment.

Yes, it is true that Canada and all the nations of the world need to do better at decarbonizing as climate change advances at an alarming pace. But the world will not be cutting off the oil taps tomorrow. If the world can't buy oil from us, it will simply source it from countries like Russia, which will be happy to use oil revenue to arm itself in its war with Ukraine.

And let's not forget about the much more urgent need for countries like China and India to phase out the use of coal, where demand for the dirtiest fossil fuel of all continues to surge.

In the meantime, it is worth remembering that this project got done because two levels of government worked together as partners, rather than adversaries. Let's not forget the feds bought Trans Mountain when the NDP's Rachel Notley was premier. Will Alberta's current premier get the message?

Sadly, not as long as Smith sees short-term political opportunity in picking fights. Let's hope her petty preferences for polarizing pugnacity doesn't come back to bite all Albertans.

TOWN OF McLENNAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED BYLAW NO. 2024-05

In accordance with section 606.1 of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Town of McLennan will hold a public hearing prior to the second reading of Bylaw No. 2024-05, to adopt the Municipal Council Bylaw of the Town of McLennan. Bylaw 2024-05 would reduce the number of council members from seven (7) to five (5).

The Public Hearing is to be held **at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024** in the Council Chambers of the Town of McLennan located at 19 – 1st Avenue NW. The proposed bylaw can be viewed at the Town of McLennan administration office during regular office hours. You can either attend in person to speak or make a written submission.

If you would like to speak in person at the Public Hearing, contact the Chief Administrative Officer at 780-324-3065 to pre-register. All speakers have five minutes to speak and are encouraged to provide a written copy of their submission before the Public Hearing.

If making a written submission you can email it to the Chief Administrative Officer ***cao@mclennan.ca.*** If making a written submission, you must include your name, if you're a resident and indicate if you are in favour of or opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Please forward written submissions to the Chief Administrative Officer prior to May 10th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding the hearing, or the bylaw, please call Lorraine Willier, Chief Administrative Officer at 780-324-3065 or via email ***cao@mclennan.ca.***

Dated at McLennan, Alberta this 4th day of April, 2024
Lorraine Willier, Chief Administrative Officer

A little something for everyone!

It was a shopper's paradise April 21-22 at the High Prairie Gun and Sportsman Show. Over 5,000 people attended the show, many of them taking in more than 50 booths at the Artisans' Market in the curling rink. A wide variety of products caught customers' attention.

Brogan Severson, of Marigold Enterprises, of High Prairie, promotes a variety of creative crafts.

JWT Hats makes hats! Left-right, are Angelina Smith and owner Jace Thorsteinson, of Stettler.

Brent Grenier, of High Prairie, left, shows his products he makes under Bent Rugz.

A variety of Indigenous products were for sale by Francy Furs. Left-right, are Shawn Roe, Francy Campiou and Chris Campiou.

Cathy Drost, left, and Henry Uniat, both of Edmonton, sell a variety of crafts and gifts under DOSC Crystal and Minerals.

Crafts were on display and for sale by Winterburn Creations. Left-right, are Kendra Winterburn and Maddison Bissell, of High Prairie.

Nicole Przybylski, of Fairview, promotes her beautiful crafts under Hummingbird Designs.

Jacquie Labrie, of Slave Lake, displays her work under Endless Crafts & Treasures.

Petra's Creations owner Petra de Vaan, of Smith, shows a variety of her colourful quilts.

Marc's Custom Fire Pits and Metal Art in Peace River displays some of its work with owner Marc Lambert, left, and Cholena FitzGerald.

Peace River council awards grants to 4 organizations

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Peace River) – Peace River town council chose which organizations will receive the first round of Grants to Organizations funds at its regular meeting on April 22.

"The non-profit groups provide supportive programs in a great many ways to make our town and region vibrant and interesting to residents," says Mayor Elaine Manzer.

"They help a wide range of ages enjoy their interests and also provide volunteer opportunities to their organizers and participants."

Manzer says the first round of applicants included Peace River Rotaract, Peace River Minor Football, Underground Music Society, and Conseil Scolaire du Nord Ouest.

"The Town of Peace River's annual total budget for this Grants to Organizations is $50,000," says Manzer.

"There are three intakes per year with deadlines for applications of March 15, June 15 and Sept. 15."

Rotaract received $8,769.53, football $5,000, the music society $600 and the school $1,200.

"Each of the applications will provide very worthwhile events or projects to support our community's development," explains Manzer.

Money allocated to Rotaract will support the first annual River Days in Peace River from July 5-7. The celebration will include a variety of activities for all ages and will be held the same weekend as Jet Boat races.

"The capital support to Peace River Minor Football will help with a new food vending building with some washrooms at the TA Norris/Glenmary Sports Fields," says Manzer.

"The allocation to the Underground Music Society will help the group host a May 25 Gala which will celebrate the end of their 25th year.

"Conseil Scolaire du Nord Quest's funding will go towards the construction of a new playground at their new school, Ecole des Quatre-Vents."

To learn more about how your organization can apply for the annual Grants to Organizations funding in the next grant intake, please visit the town's website at peaceriver.ca.

PR admin given green light to apply for energy manager

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism
Initiative Reporter

(Peace River) – At its regular meeting on April 22, Town of Peace River council gave the go-ahead to administration to apply for the Municipal Energy Manager Program.

The program is through the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC) that was run in 2019, wrapping up in 2022. It provides staffing grants to municipalities in Alberta to offset the salary of an energy manager. The energy manager is hired to complete greenhouse gas emission inventories of all corporate buildings and facilities, then they figure out low cost, no cost and capital projects the community can undertake to reduce their impact on the environment.

"One of town council's goals is to development an environmental master plan for the town," says Mayor Elaine Manzer.

"So, when we became aware of this new offering of the Municipal Energy Manager Program, administration investigated the criteria and brought the information forward for council's consideration. It also fits into the Town's plan for its asset management program in that it will provide some data about some of the Town's assets."

"Hopefully, our energy costs will be reduced through some efficiencies that are found by the energy manager. . .," says Mayor Elaine Manzer.

Manzer says administration has submitted an expression of interest, and the Town was invited to apply.

"Council has now given its support to the application for the two-year energy manager program," Manzer says.

"If we are successful, the Town will receive up to $180,000 funding over two years with the Town needing to fund a portion of the costs," she adds.

The program offers up to 80 per cent of the MEM's salary up to a maximum of $80,000 in the first year.

It also provides up to $20,000 in rebates to support implementation of energy management initiatives.

In year two, the municipality could receive up to 40 per cent of an MEM salary up to a maximum of $40,000. It will also receive up to $40,000 in rebates to support the implementation of energy management initiatives. Year two funding is contingent on the municipality meeting Year One program requirements.

"The energy manager's work will aid council in meeting our goal of reducing the Town's impact on the environment, help the Town to realize some energy cost savings and efficiencies and also provide data for future grant applications," explains Manzer.

"Also, because a portion of the new position's costs will be paid through the grant program, the impact on the Town's budget is minimized."

Manzer says the Town is also hoping to see significant reduction on utility bills they pay as a result of some of the projects that could be found by the MEM, if they are successful in their application.

"Hopefully, our energy costs will be reduced through some efficiencies that are found by the energy manager as well as the data collected will be helpful in some future grant applications that are expected to require the data," she says.

Interested municipalities can see the MEM program requirements and funding information by visiting the MCCAC website at https://mccac.ca.

Big Lakes County

NOTICE TO GRAVEL TRUCK OWNERS

All interested gravel truck owners are invited to submit, on forms provided, their rates based on a percentage of the County rate, for the 2024 gravel season. The County requires proof of liability insurance and Workers' Compensation coverage included with each submission.

Forms are available at:

Big Lakes County
Box 239, 5305-56 Street
High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0
780-523-5955

Big Lakes County
51 Centre Street
Kinuso, AB T0G 1K0
780-523-5955

www.biglakescounty.ca/resources/forms

Deadline for registrations is:
2:00 P.M. , WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

There is no guarantee of actual commitments for work nor acceptance of rates.

Quotation forms must be submitted in a sealed envelope prior to the deadline to the High Prairie or Kinuso Office at the above addresses or submitted by email to: pwquotes@biglakescounty.ca.

Note: Suppliers in arrears with the County will not be considered.

Phone 780-523-5955 | **BigLakesCounty.ca**

WANTED
2024 Miss High Prairie Elks Pro Rodeo Queen Contestants
Contact for an Application
Applications close May 15th, 2024
misshpelks@gmail.com
Sarah Neill or Brooke Monteith

NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY

www.northernsunrise.net

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NORTHERN SUNRISE COUNTY

BURSARY

Council launched an innovative program of bursaries designed to support aspiring young and old residents in pursuing their academic dreams. These bursaries are not merely financial aid but symbols of faith in the potential of Northern Sunrise County's residents and the Village of Nampa.

OUR PROGRAM:

- Three scholarships of $1,000 per year for apprenticeship programs that are six weeks or longer
- Two scholarships of $2,500 per year for two-year college programs

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY

- https://nafgives.com/scholarships/

Stay in the Loop

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 13 - Little Adventurers: Buggin' Out, at the Nampa FCSS Office from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. for parents/guardians with children ages 0-5.

May 14 - Tech Talk at the Nampa FCSS Office from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

May 21 - Nampa Seniors' Coffee Morning at Nampa Foods from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

May 22 - FCSS Open House at Cecil Thompson Park from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

May 24 - Family Dodgeball at the Nampa Public School from 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

May 29 - Moving from Self-Care to Self-Sustainability workshop at the St. Isidore Cultural Centre from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

May 29 - Creating Boundaries for Children, Teens, and Technology workshop at the St. Isidore Cultural Centre from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sign Up

TO RECEIVE A COMPLETE LISTING OF THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED, SCAN THE QR CODE.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 780-625-3287

Council Meetings

TUESDAY

MAY 14 & 28

Council meetings are held in the Council Chamber at the Northern Sunrise County Office at 135 Sunrise Road

All Council meeting start at 9:30 a.m. and are open to the public.

Council meetings are also available for virtual attendance

To access the meeting link visit northernsunrise.civicweb.net

'Close to record high' 5,000+ attend gun show

High Prairie Fish & Game Association applauds sponsors and volunteers who help make annual event a big success

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - More than 5,000 people attended the 21st annual High Prairie Gun and Sportsman Show on April 20-21.

"It was probably one of the biggest and best shows we've hosted," says Darrell Basarab, longtime chairman of the show organized by High Prairie Fish and Game Association.

"We had well over 5,000 people attend – it's close to a record high."

However, organizers do not keep accurate figures, since the numbers include the exhibitors, volunteers and sponsors who get free entry.

"You can tell how busy it is by the volume of traffic in the causeway between the Sports Palace and the Gordon Buchanan Recreation Centre," Basarab says.

"On the opening day, it was slow-moving traffic, almost shoulder to shoulder from 11 o'clock to two o'clock."

Sold out the last seven shows with 150 vendors and 400 tables, the event featured more than 50 vendors in

Cont. on page 17

A-1 Western Wear, Tack and Gifts in High Prairie promotes its products. Left-right, are owner Teresa Yanishewski, Doug Hewitt and Marina Robertson, both of Grimshaw.

John Neufeld, of Grimshaw, left, and his son, Ethan Neufeld, check out guns and rifles at the gun show.

Alberta Conservation Association biologists Clayton Temple, left, and Nikita Lebedynski, provide a variety of printed information and guides.

Ready to start mowing the lawn? McKinley King, 5, of Valleyview, sits in the driver's seat of a ride-on lawn mower on display by Martin Deerline in High Prairie.

Young brothers, Markus Grant, 7, and Mikah Grant, 3, of High Prairie, take aim with toy wooden rifles at the Artisans' Market.

Gun vendor Iain McClean, left, of Edmonton, shows some product to Caleb Mohan, of Little Smoky.

Shadowlands Welding in Valleyview displays some of its work with Chelsea Turner, left, and Collin Turner.

Crosby Rich, of High Prairie, left, sits in an Action Trackchair beside western Canadian dealer Randy Schlender, of Daysland, who stands in another Trackchair to demonstrate its versatility.

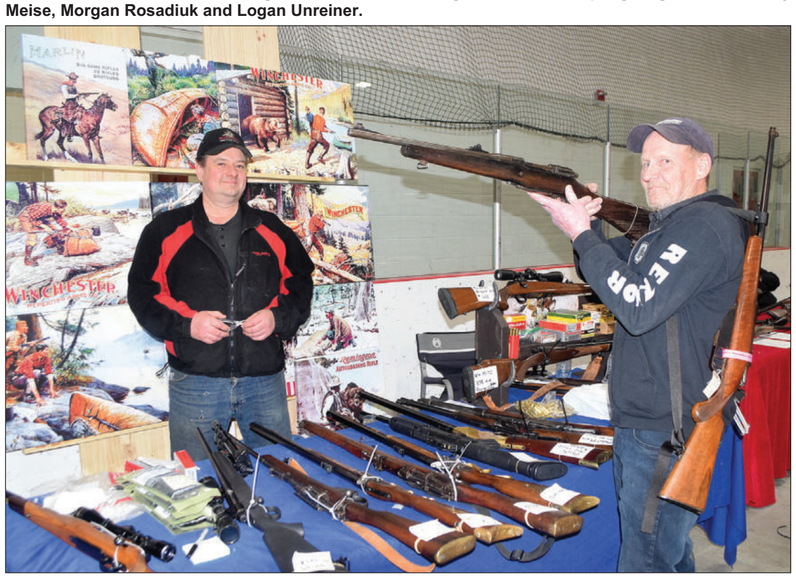
Three people have their eye on a side-by-side on display by Maximum Power Sports, of Peace River. Pauline Laurin, of McLennan, sits in the driver's seat with Henri Laurin in the passenger seat. Richard Deslauriers stands beside the vehicle.

Reece Slade, 11, of Sunset House, sits in the driver's seat of a quad on display by The Honda Shop in High Prairie as his sister Richelle Slade, 9, sits behind.

Deers n' Steers Custom Cutting is promoted by Kate Lovsin, left, and owner Matt Lovsin.

Walker Perry, 18 months old, looks at a cougar as he is held by his mother Kailynn Odegaard, of Slave Lake, at the display of DB (Dave Booth) Taxidermy in Slave Lake.

Alberta Fish and Wildlife officers grin and "bear" it. Left-right, are Xander Kipling, Logan Proulx, Cody Meise, Morgan Rosadiuk and Logan Unreiner.



Joe MacDonald, of Debolt, right, tests a rifle before he buys it from vendor Jim Sawatzky, of Valleyview.

2023-24 SCHOOL NEWS

brought to you by

The South Peace News

High Prairie School Division No. 48

The Lakeside Leader

A CALL TO BE KIND
Because compassion connects us all.
UN APPEL À LA GENTILLESSE
Parce que la compassion est humaine.
CMHA Mental Health Week
May 6-12, 2024
#CompassionConnects
La Semaine de la santé mentale de l'ACSM
6 au 12 mai 2024
#CultivonsLaCompassion

Application Deadline Extended!

WE'RE HIRING
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION
If you are passionate about education and want to be a part of a dynamic team that is committed to making a difference, we invite you to join us.
hpsd.ca

Exciting News! We've extended the application deadline for our Director of Transportation position! Don't miss this opportunity to lead and innovate in student transportation. Apply by **Tuesday, April 30, 2024**, and be a part of shaping the future of our division!

Are you a dynamic leader with a passion for ensuring safe and efficient transportation for students? High Prairie School Division is seeking a dedicated individual to fill the role of Director of Transportation. The ideal candidate will possess a bachelor's degree along with demonstrated leadership and management skills. With responsibilities ranging from overseeing transportation services to maintaining fiscal responsibility, excellent communication and interpersonal abilities are a must. If you thrive in a collaborative environment, have experience liaising with government departments and agencies, and are committed to student well-being, we want to hear from you! Apply now to be part of our team and make a difference in our community.

For details and to apply, go to hpsd.ca/careers.

2024-25
Kindergarten and New Student Registration is Open!
REGISTER NOW hpsd.ca/register

WILDFIRE INFORMATION

The safety of students and staff is High Prairie School Division's top priority. We are committed to keeping you informed and taking the necessary steps to ensure everyone's safety during an emergency.

In order to remain in contact with families, we ask that you make sure your contact information is up-to-date. If your contact information has changed recently, please contact your child's school to ensure that information is updated.

IF A WILDFIRE OCCURS
We will contact families via the following communication channels:

WEBSITE	SCHOOL MESSENGER	SOCIAL MEDIA
hpsd.ca	Text "y" to 978338 to opt-in for SMS messages from the school	facebook.com/hpsd48

School buses will operate if the Evacuation Alert is more than four hours. If the municipality declares a four-hour evacuation alert or less, buses will NOT operate. Parents/guardians will be asked to pick up their children in the event that buses cannot operate.

The school and division will monitor air quality. Using available information, decisions will be made on staying inside for recess/breaks or any other measures needed for student safety.

STAY INFORMED
Visit the following resources for the most current information on the wildfires:

- Alberta Emergency Alert: www.alberta.ca/alberta-emergency-alert.aspx
- Wildfire Status: www.alberta.ca/wildfire-status.aspx
- 511 Alberta: 511.alberta.ca/#:Alerts
- Smoke Forecast: firesmoke.ca

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school.

hpsd.ca/wildfire

GRADE 9 STUDENTS
Do you have a summer job?
Earn 3-5 HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS THIS SUMMER THROUGH CAREER INTERNSHIP 10
REQUIREMENTS:
• Summer employment must be secured prior to June 6.
• Students must register for summer school with their Career Coach.
• HCS3000 is a mandatory prerequisite.
DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JUNE 6, 2024.
REGISTER NOW
achieve@hpsd.ca

For more information about summer school or Career Internship 10, reach out to your school's Career Coach or email **achieve@hpsd.ca**.

DID YOU KNOW: HPSD now offers high school students the opportunity to earn their Veterinary Technical Certificate, which is a dual credit program, in partnership with Olds College of Agriculture and Technology. Reach out to your school's Career Coach, or email achieve@hpsd.ca for details!

hpsd.ca

BLC proclaims Public Works Week

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - Big Lakes County will celebrate Public Works Week set for May 19-25.

At its regular meeting April 24, council approved a motion to proclaim Public Works Week designated by the Canadian Public Works Association (APWA).

"The week is designated to acknowledge the contributions of public works staff," Kevin Cymbaluk, director of operations, formerly public works, told council.

"Council has issued proclamations in the past and usually hosts a barbecue for staff during or close to that week."

"Advancing Qualify of Life for All" is the theme of 64th annual Public Works Week.

"Public works contributes to advance and enhance our quality of life, no matter where we live in the world," the APWA states in an information notice.

Public works professionals provide essential services that lead to healthier, happier and more vibrant communities.

"The theme shines a spotlight on the way public works professionals advance our quality of life, whether as a first responder to an electricity outage, regular waste pick-up or a myriad of other ways they quietly serve their communities,"the news release states.

"Public works professionals advance the quality of life by providing infrastructure of services in transportation, water, wastewater, stormwater treatment, public buildings and spaces, parks and grounds, emergency management and first response, solid waster, and right-of-way management.

"They are what make our communities dynamic places to live and work."

"The week is designated to acknowledge the contributions of public works staff," says Kevin Cymbaluk.

Students harvest another gift from nature

Kinuso School Grade 5-6 students took part in land-based learning April 15. They learned how to harvest birch sap from Indigenous knowledge keepers and Elders. Photos courtesy of the school. According to Wikipedia, "birch sap has been used since the dawn of time for its innumerable virtues. It is a real concentrate of well-being. This raw water is known to eliminate toxins and to ensure the proper functioning of the body. Nevertheless, birch sap requires a specific harvesting process to preserve its purity and properties."

Kinuso School student Aubrina Twin drills into a birch tree to collect birch sap. Kinuso School Grade 5-6 students took part in land-based learning April 15. They learned how to harvest birch sap from Indigenous knowledge keepers and Elders.

Kinuso School students walk past some birch sap containers on trees as part of their land-based learning on April 15.

Kinuso School student Ryder Churchill holds the bucket lid which will go onto a spigot into the tree with a hook which allows the birch sap to leak out into a bucket to be collected. In the background, Swan River First Nation cultural coordinator Richard Woodman, holds the bucket and helps with the teaching.

Remorseful man sentenced for domestic assault

H.P. court docket
April 22, 2024
Justice S.P. Hinkley

(High Prairie) - A young man who assaulted a female during a domestic incident will spend another few more days in jail.

Jesse Jim Hawryliw-Letendre, 32, of High Prairie, was sentenced to 21 days for assault after pleading guilty in the High Prairie Court of Justice on April 22.

He was given 15 days credit for time already served in the Peace River Correctional Centre.

Court heard Hawryliw-Letendre entered the home of his former female spouse in High Prairie on April 13 and went into her bedroom where he attempted to kiss her, Crown prosecutor Kelly Payne said.

"He was not invited into the home," Payne said.

The female victim slapped him.

"He grabbed her on the right side of the neck and pinched it," the Crown submitted.

"It's aggravating that it's domestic violence."

Payne noted the accused had no previous criminal record of violence.

After he is released from jail, Hawryliw-Letendre will be placed on probation for 15 months. During probation, he was ordered by Justice S.P. Hinkley to complete assessment, counselling and treatment for domestic violence and drugs and alcohol addictions.

"This is your chance to get help," Justice Hinkley said.

Hawryliw-Letendre is eager to move on, his lawyer Derek Renzini told court.

"He is motivated to get counselling for domestic violence," Renzini said.

"His early guilty plea is a gesture of remorse."

Hawryliw-Letendre was at the woman's home to pick up his children, Renzini noted.

The justice ordered him to have not contact with the victim during probation, which he supported.

"He has no aspirations to continue the relationship with her," Renzini said.

He added the relationship has been on and off for some time.

Hawryliw-Letendre can access their children only through a third party.

He has a strong backing to help in the situation, court was told.

"He's got a lot of family support," said Cheryl Kachuk, criminal courtworker with Native Counselling Services of Alberta.

Hawryliw-Letendre's mother present with him was in court.

Gun Show

Cont. from pages 14-15

the gun room in the Gordon Buchanan Recreation Centre, more than 50 in the Artisans' Market in the curling rink and the causeway and about 45 in the Sports Palace.

"We got lots of comments from vendors, who say our community support, involvement and volunteers are great," Basarab says.

"It's a feather in our community's cap.

"Without the support from local businesses, organizations and volunteers, we wouldn't be able to host such as large event."

Vendors travelled from all over Alberta and some parts of British Columbia and Alberta.

The popular 50/50 draw was another big hit with $10,045 dollars collected on Saturday and $6,215 on Sunday, all processed on computer.

Winners received half of the pot.

"If we didn't have a computer glitch Saturday, we could have reached $12,000," Basarab says.

Basarab and the association thank all those who supported the event.

Organizers are already planning for the 22nd annual show in 2025 set for April 26-27, the weekend after Easter, Basarab says.

It's time to spruce up!

BLC awards business 4 refurbishment upgrade grants

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - Big Lakes County has awarded four local business refurbishment grants to upgrade their facilities.

At its regular meeting April 24, council approved $2,500 matching grants to Shady Orchard and Winery, B. Hunt Express in Kinuso, SHIFT Canine Training in Grouard, and Running Dream Equestrian in Kinuso.

"The Business Refurbishment Program provides up to four businesses with $2,500 in matching grant for a total available funding of $10,000 per year," grants officer Samantha Smith said.

The purpose of the program is to encourage and provide business located in Big Lakes County an opportunity to invest in facade renovations, some interiors upgrades and online presence upgrades.

Smith noted the recipients are required to provide proof of work and paid costs before the County grants the funding.

She adds the County received six applications by the deadline of March 15 but only four met the policy criteria.

The four applicants were reviewed and recommended to council by the economic development committee April 17.

Shady Orchard was awarded a grant to assist with the cost to redesign its website, upgrade its online presence and improve its marketing capabilities.

Upgrades are required since the business was rebranded.

The policy states the grant is also an incentive for businesses to create and upgrade websites and its online presence.

B. Hunt Express was awarded a grant to install new flooring in its premises, construct a large outdoor bulletin board, install an additional security camera and upgrade office equipment and furnishings.

SHIFT was awarded a grant to install inter-locking dog-training mats to ensure safety and to upgrade the current security camera system that allows for two-way interactions during training sessions an absences.

Running Dream was awarded a grant to continue a landscaping project started last year that was also supported by a $2,500 refurbishment grant from Big Lakes.

Running Dream includes plans to upgrade about 1,900 feet of fencing with wooden posts and 2-x-6 board to provide a safe area for children to ride and to upgrade internal paddocks.

Big Lakes created the grant program as an incentive to business to make improvements to address some of the issues and concerns mentioned in the 2019 Visitor-Friendly Assessment.

The survey found that many business fronts needed some upgrades to beautify them to attract more visitors, shoppers and customers.

The grant program works with other revitalization programs to:

-Build local community and civic pride among the business community and citizens of Big Lakes.

-Promote the viability of retail and commercial businesses and help building owners to attract and retain tenants and customers.

Big Lakes drops grant application

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – Big Lakes County council has pulled its application for a provincial Indigenous and Municipal Policing Transition Study Grant.

At its regular meeting April 24, council approved a report from CAO David Reynolds for information.

The decision comes after council passed a motion at its meeting Feb. 14 to direct administration to apply for a provincial government Indigenous and municipal police transition grant for a maximum of $30,000.

Council approved the recommendation without any comments or questions.

The grant is available from the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services to assist local governments to cover the cost of investigating different police models and creating a feasibility study for a local self-administered police services or a regional police servicing model.

"Part of the process was to gauge the long-term feasibility of the study, alongside assessing the financial requirements, staffing necessities and local support," Reynolds wrote in a report to council for the April 24 meeting.

"After thorough evaluation, administration determined that given the current financial conditions, workplace requirements and the existing policing ecosystem, it is not the appropriate time to proceed with the Indigenous and Municipal Policing Transition Study Grant."

Reynolds noted the cost of a feasibility study launched by the City of Grande Prairie.

"Research suggests that a feasibility study of the caliber required will cost anywhere from $150,000 to $300,000 and will take potentially 12-14 months to complete with extensive staff time involved," Reynolds said.

"Grande Prairie's policing transition has a projected cost of $19 million over a five-year span, which includes transitional staffing, equipment, fleet assets, technology, infrastructure, recruitment, training and professional services with a 20 per cent contingency."

The grant focuses on taking a proactive approach to explore and evaluate different policing models within municipalities," grants officer Samantha Smith told council Feb. 14.

"The aim is to help Big Lakes and area identify models that can best address our unique needs, enhance the value of law enforcement and strengthen the trust between law enforcement and the constituents they serve."

Grant funding can be issued to assist in researching local public safety needs, capital requirements and transition considerations.

The grant offered to municipalities and Indigenous communities helps them:

- Consider different policing options;

- Create a feasibility study or business case for a local, self-administered police service or a regional policing model.

Grant funding may also be used to pay costs to research local public safety needs, capital requirements and transition requirements.

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Big Lakes County
Invitation to Tender

SEALED TENDERS will be received at the Big Lakes County Office located at 5305 – 56 St, High Prairie, Alberta, T0G 1E0, up to 2:00:00 PM on the closing date noted below for the following construction work:

Tender No. 77445-24, Culvert Replacement and Other Work – closing at 2:00:00 PM, May 7, 2024.

Bridge File 77445 (SE 17-73-19-W5M), 23 km north of Sunset House, on a local road. The work includes the removal and disposal of the existing 2032 x 2240 mm SPCSP culvert and replacement with a new 3050 mm x 44.50 m SPCSP culvert (4 mm plate thickness).

Electronic (.PDF) copies of the Bid Documents are available for free download from the Alberta Purchasing Connection website at the following link:
www.purchasingconnection.ca

Tenders will be opened at 2:00:00 PM at the Big Lakes County office in High Prairie. Big Lakes County will provide the tender results upon request.

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders and to waive irregularities and informalities at its discretion.

Kevin Cymbaluk
Executive Director of Operations

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Big Lakes County
OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT SALE
OF SURPLUS VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Big Lakes County is now accepting sealed bids on the following surplus vehicles and equipment. ***A minimum bid is applied to all items.***

ITEM	MINIMUM BID
2011 Ford F-350 1 Ton Single Cab 4x4 8Ft Box VIN# 1FTRF3B68BEC89093 (137,008 km)	$5,000
2017 Chevrolet CK35903 1Ton Single Cab 4x4 8Ft Box VIN# 1GC3KZCG8HZ146674 (77,266 km)	$16,000
2016 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab 4x4 5.7L Short Box VIN# 1C6RR7LT9HS535105 (183,824 km)	$13,000
2017 Ford F-150 ½ Ton Crew Cab 4x4 5.0L Short Box VIN# 1FTFW1EF0HFB94842 (205,030 km)	$14,000
2017 Ford F-150 ½ Ton Crew Cab 4x4 5.0L Short Box VIN# 1FTFW1EF2HFB94843 (179,121 km)	$16,000
2017 Ford F-150 ½ Ton Crew Cab 4x4 5.0L Short Box VIN# 1FTFW1EF8HFB94846 (167,952 km)	$16,000
2019 Chevrolet CK10543 ½ Ton Crew Cab 4x4 5.3L Short Box VIN# 1GCUYDED8KZ367336 (167,304 km)	$20,000
2018 Caterpillar 160M3 AWD Grader (7878 HRS) S/N CAT0160MKN9T00319 C/W 16ft Moldboard Snow Wing & Front Dozer	$271,000
2015 Bobcat S70 SkidSteer #107 (1316 HRS) S/N B38V12029 C/W 36" Snowblower S/N 713401970, 54" Utility Blade S/N APHL00645, 48" Angle Broom S/N 700001738, 36" Bucket S/N 7114488-1	$15,000
2015 Bobcat S70 SkidSteer #108 (1439 HRS) S/N B38V12362 C/W 36" Snowblower S/N 713401980, 54" Utility Blade S/N APHL00629, 48" Angle Broom S/N 70000173, 36" Bucket S/N 7114488-2	$15,000
2014 Bobcat S650 Skid Steer, Ride Control, 2 Speed (2,419 Hrs) S/N ALJ812195	$30,000
2015 Western MVP 8-1/2ft Plow S/N 16080520009744485-1	$2,500
2013 Snowex SP7550 Sander 1.5cu yd S/N 81150051	$1,700
2004 John Deere LT180 Lawn Tractor (approx 1107 HRS) S/N MOL180J505848	$500
2018 Schulte XH1500 15FT Batwing Mower S/N C30810840805	$18,000
2009 John Deere 7330 Tractor (approx 4881HRS) S/N RW7330K028449	$85,000
100 Gallon Propane Tank V608568 (65% Remaining)	$725
100 Gallon Propane Tank V743022 (75% Remaining)	$725

All items can be viewed at the Operations yard at 5305 – 56 Street, High Prairie, Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sealed bids will be accepted until 1:30 p.m., Thursday, May 16, 2024. All items are sold as is, where is, and must be removed by Thursday, June 6, 2024. Big Lakes County reserves the right to refuse any or all bids. For more information contact Trevor Kucheruk at (780) 523-5955.

Sealed bids can be dropped off at the Big Lakes County Administration Office, 5305–56 Street or mailed to:

Bid for Sale of Used Vehicles and Equipment
Big Lakes County
Box 239
High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0

ATCO was one of many partners to contribute to the three electric charging stations at the M.D. of Smoky River at Falher. Above, ATCO presents a $15,000 cheque to the M.D. of Smoky River council on Dec. 1, 2-13. Left-right are councillors Andy Trudeau and Raoul Johnson, ATCO's Barry Himer, ATCO's Carol Broadrib presenting Reeve Robert Brochu with a cheque, and councillors Paula Guindon, Gilles Roy, and Alain Blanchette. The stations have since been commssioned.

All 'charged up' and ready to go!

M.D. of Smoky River installs 3 electric charging stations

Emily Plihal
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

(Falher) – M.D. of Smoky River council is pleased to announce its three electric vehicle chargers have been commissioned.

Funding for the installation of the chargers was provided by the SouthGrow Regional Initiative (SGRI), in partnership with the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC), and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), through the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Program (ZEVIP). This portion from SouthGrow Electric Vehicle Charging Program was in the amount of $48,201.56. The M.D. also received funds from ATCO's Clean Energy Community Fund in the amount of $15,000.

The three chargers, two level 2 (7 kW) chargers and a level 3 (65 kW) charger, cost just over $100, 000 to install.

"The M.D. had an opportunity to provide the community with an EV charging station at a reasonable cost due to federal and provincial grants being available, so we decided to pursue that opportunity," says Reeve Robert Brochu.

"We will consider energy efficiency grants in the future, depending on current circumstances," he adds.

Council has chosen rates of $10 per hour for the Level 2 chargers or $0.80 per minute for the faster charger. These rates could be temporary as the municipality has to analyze the cost to them versus compensation from the consumer to use the chargers.

Because there are so few chargers in northern Alberta, specifically Level 3 chargers, council had very few examples of other charging stations to see what rates would be best to use.

The M.D. hopes the efforts will help to increase travel to the community from people with electric vehicles, help to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, and also help to promote these two funding programs that have helped them to install this new infrastructure.

The M.D. has been working in recent years to reduce their energy consumption and be leaders in the regional movement to adapt and plan for the issues linked to climate change.

ATCO information states it is working to ensure the world is a sustainable place for future generations, creating community investment programs, supporting organizations on energy transition journeys, building capacity for safer communities, and collaborating with sponsored partners to make a meaningful difference.

To learn more about ATCO's Clean Energy Community Fund please visit https://www.atco.com/en-ca/our-commitment/community-investment/clean-energy-community-fund.html.
The SouthGrow program can be applied for through https://www.southgrow.com/ev-charging-program.

McLennan Spring Clean-Up May 10-13

Chris Clegg
South Peace News

(McLennan) - McLennan's Spring Clean-Up will occur again this year, but back to its usual time of year.

Last year, council decided to hold the cleanup May 26-29 but this year it returns to its earlier date of May 10-13.

Similar to past years, items must be dropped off inside the fenced area at the public works shop.

The following items will be accepted: electronics, and electronic waste, tires, batteries, paint, furniture, small metal items, and appliances such as fridges, stoves, freezers, washers, dryers and dishwashers.

The following items will not be accepted: construction waste, roofing material, fencing including wood or chain link, auto parts, cement, and renovation materials including drywall, wood and decking.

Fees are $5 per load, $25 for pickup at property, $10 for a non-freon appliance, and $30 for a freon appliance.

Tree or grass clippings are free.

However, residents are reminded a $25 fee will apply for pickup at an individual's property.

Hours of operation are Friday, May 10 from 1-8 p.m., Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday, May 12 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Monday, May 13 from 1-8 p.m.

Each person dropping off their trash will be required to provide a civic address with the attendant on site.

If you have any questions, please call the town office at (780) 324-3065.

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Powwow May 4! And you're invited!

The Grand Entry at the High Prairie Traditional Powwow on May 7, 2022 was colourful. Left-right, are Steven BigCharles, Merle Supernault, both of East Prairie, Kirby Chalifoux, of Driftpile, and Bert Bull, of Maskwacis. This year, the powwow is May 4 at the Sports Palace and Gordon Buchanan Recreation Centre. The schedule tentatively calls for grand entries at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Sports Palace. Youth traditional hand games being at 11 a.m. in the GBRC. Free stew and bannock is served at 5 p.m. The powwow is free to attend.

Budget reflects strategic plan

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - Big Lakes County Reeve Tyler Airth says the 2024 operating and capital budgets reflect council's priorities.

At a special budget meeting April 17, council approved an operating budget of $36,481,796 in expenses and $38,920,495 in operating revenue.

"The 2024 budget was presented to reflect our current strategic plan while administration maintains the current level of service council has approved," Airth says.

"With this budget being in alignment with our process to create more transparency and accountability, we are excited to be able to provide more clear information as to where dollars are being allocated as shown in our reserve contributions, for example."

Council further adopted a capital budget of $11,201,211.

"We are happy to see some of the major capital projects comes to fruition this year," Airth says.

"One of the highlights is that we a beginning massive rehabilitation on the bridge crossing the West Prairie River on Township Rd. 740, more commonly known at Gilwood Rd."

It will extend the life of the bridge on the road that gets a high volume of truck traffic, he says.

The budgets were carefully prepared, says Joey Sutton, director of finance.

"Administration presented the budget with balance at the forefront, balancing both the need to maintain affordability while also planning for the future and continuing to provide the best possible services for our resident," Sutton says.

"(Big Lakes County) administration stands with council in being as fiscally responsible as possible, bringing the most value and making the county and attractive place to live," Sutton says.

The operating budget reflects a 2.5 per cent tax increase and a 2.5 per cent increase for the cost of living allowance (COLA) for staff and grid step increases.

In the budget, the County will repay the principal on long-term debt in the amount of $547,350, contribute $1,507,500 to capital reserves and $1,891,349 to operating reserves.

After the operating budget, council passed a subsequent motion to withdraw $4,988,758 from reserves for capital project work.

Council further adopted a capital budget of $11,201,211.

"The capital program reflects new projects, maintenance of existing infrastructure and/or completion of projects underway in 2023," Sutton says.

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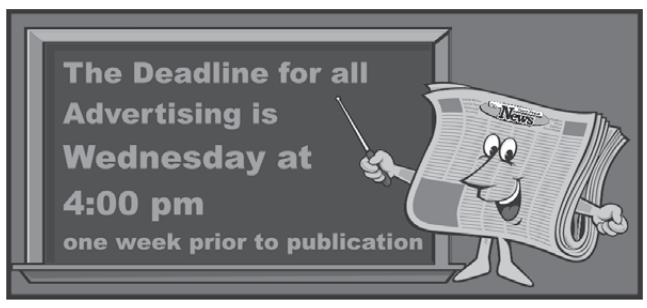


The report is in! BLC grader operations make the grade!

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - Grader services on roads within Big Lakes County have made the grade – according to a report from a consultant.

At its regular meeting April 24, council approved the final report on the level of service for grader operations as requested by council last year.

RI Engineering and Environmental senior engineer Ian Cosh completed the review and report presented by Kevin Cymbaluk, director of operations for the County.

"The current service delivery model is working well and is the result of many decades of incremental refinement, including formal and informal benchmarking," Cosh writes in the conclusion of the 36- page report.

"This is anticipated to be within a negligible margin of the best technical solution to the current needs for Big Lakes County to provide this core service."

He acknowledges the staff who have built the current service delivery model.

Big Lakes CAO David Reynolds says the report gives the County a good grade.

"The report says what we're doing now is efficient and effective," he says.

Those words were echoed by Kevin Cymbaluk, director of operations.

"The review determined that grader operations at the County are generally efficient and effective," Cymbaluk wrote as he summed up the report in his report to council.

"However, this would be highly dependent upon contract pricing."

The existing distribution of beats with five internal beats with two external beats has been shown to be efficient, he said.

"Additional privatization of grader beats is not required to achieve the current level of service established in policy," Cymbaluk noted.

Grader services are set out in policy as approved by council.

"Should council desire to change an existing beat to contracted delivery, the recommended grader beats would be Enilda-Joussard and Faust-Kinuso," Cymbaluk said.

"These are the most remote and can be more difficult to service out of the High Prairie shop."

A suggestion by Heart River – Salt Prairie Councillor Garrett Zahacy to cut the beats to six from seven was not supported by most council.

Kinuso Councillor Roberta Hunt said one person told her the service on one local road is inadequate.

"It's not being graded enough," Hunt said.

South Gilwood – Sunset House Councillor Ann Stewart supported the status quo.

"The number of graders we now use is effective and efficient," she said.

Council and administration discussed the draft report with Cosh at a workshop March 14 where council requested further information.

"Should developing industry capacity for road grading be a strategic goal of council, it is expected that this core service could be outsourced at higher costs compared to delivering the service internally as is currently being done," the conclusion cited.

"Contracting additional beats is not anticipated to result in savings.

"This would be anticipated to have wide-ranging impacts within the organization based on the extent to which additional beats are privatized."

The flexibility and control changes would be significant and the cost efficiency and day-to-day operations of other county programs that share resources would be impacted.

"It s also not recommended to have fewer beats," the conclusion stated.

Going forward, Koch suggested the County gauge interest from citizens in changing the level of service for grading and snowplowing private driveways and road maintenance.

Transfer station fire prompting waste burn review

Last week's fire at the transfer station near Jasper is leading Parks Canada to review its procedures regarding burning.

Scott Hayes,
Local Journalism Initiative Student,
The Fitzhugh,
Jasper, AB.

(Jasper) – The practice of burning clean, woody debris at the transfer station is the standard practice at the transfer station that is managed by Parks Canada.

That practice is set for a review after responders dealt with a fire that was reported late last Monday afternoon (April 15) at the site located approximately nine kilometres northeast of Jasper. The fire reportedly began a few days after Parks ignited a burn in a protected earthen berm cell on Friday.

"We've never had a problem like this," said Dave Argument, resource conservation manager with Jasper National Park.

The berm cells are well-protected, Argument said, with three raised sides with one open. At this time of the year, the collection of wood debris frequently grows from what is brought in by residents, contractors and anyone else who wants to keep it out of the landfills.

"Burning some of that material is still, unfortunately, the best way to dispose of it," he said.

"There's a bit of an irony here, of course, that because of all the fire risk reduction work, there's a higher volume than normal of material to be disposed of. Everybody's trying to do their parts to make sure that we're reducing fire risk to the community and things like that."

Before each burn, the transfer station operator confirms with the fire management officer that the time and conditions warrant ignition. If the fire management officer gives the go-ahead, the burn pile is ignited, and the cell is closed off while it burns down.

It isn't supervised 100 per cent of the time, Argument said, but the transfer station operator is normally there during the day.

With the wind that whipped up earlier that day, embers flew off the pile and landed in combustible dry grass, sparking the blaze.

"Burning some of that material is still, unfortunately, the best way to dispose of it," said Dave Argument, resource conservation manager.

Parks Canada's fire crew first responded around 4:15 p.m. As the fire progressed, it moved into an area containing other waste materials including plastics and creosote-soaked timbers. It came close to the scrap metal pile as well, but there are bits of waste material pieces of plastic and Styrofoam that frequently get stuck in the grass.

Parks then requested the assistance of the municipal fire department, which has trained personnel who come equipped with breathing apparatuses that allow them to work on non-wood fires.

"They were able to come out and address a couple of spots where the fire starting to impact the waste material at the transfer station that might be more toxic smoke than what we're trained to do," Argument said.

The fire was brought under control within a few hours, only reaching 0.8 hectares in size. Fire crews created a fire guard line along the fence there to ensure that no other encroachment happens. By Friday, Argument couldn't say that it was extinguished but that it was very secure at this point. He had no further concerns about the fire growing back.

The only concerns relate to how it occurred and making sure it doesn't happen again. Argument said that the obvious next step is to make sure to fill up the holes in the process.

"We'll have to have a look at the process and make sure that we make some improvements where we can find them."

Argument explained that the fire risk in Jasper National Park at the time was low. There is, however, a bit of a window where the snow is gone but it's still before green-up when the dry vegetation becomes a concerning factor. The fire is still under investigation.

He added that the incident does serve as a strong reminder that everyone must be aware of the hazards and play their part in preventing wildfires.

First-ever wild pig summit opens in city

Miranda Leybourne
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter,
Brandon Sun.

(Brandon) – The Manitoba government is investing more than $2.6 million over the next four years into the Squeal on Pigs Manitoba initiative that aims to track and remove wild pigs across the province.

The funding announcement came on Tuesday morning as representatives from Animal Health Canada, Assiniboine Community College, Squeal on Pigs Manitoba and Manitoba Pork began the first-ever Canadian Wild Pig Summit at the Dome Building in Brandon.

Wild pigs threaten animal, environmental and human health, said Manitoba Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn, who donned a Winnipeg Jets jersey and was one of the first speakers at the summit. The Squeal on Pigs program, he said, takes critical, proactive measures that will protect Manitoba's pork industry.

"These pigs pose a risk to production, animals and crop health and to our wildlife and landscape," Kostyshyn said.

"As we all know, wild pigs are really tough to get rid of. They are a challenge to our landscape and for potential spread of diseases."

The $2.6 million is being delivered to the Squeal on Pigs program as part of the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, which will provide funding to the agriculture sector until 2028.

"It takes dollars to make a program continue to be successful," Kostyshyn said.

"These pigs pose a risk to production, animals and crop health and to our wildlife and landscape," Manitoba Agriculture Minister Ron Kostyshyn said.

Wild pigs first became established in Manitoba after they were brought over from Europe in the 1980s during an agricultural livestock diversification initiative, the province's website says. The free-ranging wild boar populations the province is currently dealing with came about from escaped farm animals and their offspring. Causing problems in the form of wildlife habitat destruction, crop damage, human safety concerns and the spread of disease, they have continued to thrive across the province, said Dr. Wayne Lees, project co-ordinator of Squeal on Pigs Manitoba.

"Together with our partners in both the provincial and federal governments, as well as Manitoba's agricultural sector and stakeholders across the province, this new funding will allow us to further our efforts to track, trap and remove wild pigs from the landscape and protect our province," he said.

The funding the Province announced will help the Squeal on Pigs campaign to identify where wild pigs exist in Manitoba, work to control the spread of their population and remove as many pigs as possible, eventually eradicating the species from the province. To do so, the program works with field technicians and landowners who undertake tracking and trapping of wild pigs with the help of partners in the industry.

Kostyshyn applauded Animal Health Canada, Assiniboine Community College and Manitoba Pork for bringing people together for the summit to work on the best possible solutions to the problem.

"It is great to see you bring in and adopt new methods of this program. These methods ensure that … resources go to the right place at the right time," Kostyshyn said.

"It's good to see so many people from across Canada working together to solve the complex problem that does exist."

Kostyshyn committed himself and the Province to continue to work with Squeal on Pigs and other industry partners to ensure that one day, Manitoba's wild pig population is no more.

"I don't think any one of us would ever think that this was a session or conversation we would have five years ago or 10 years ago, but the reality is, it is here," he said.

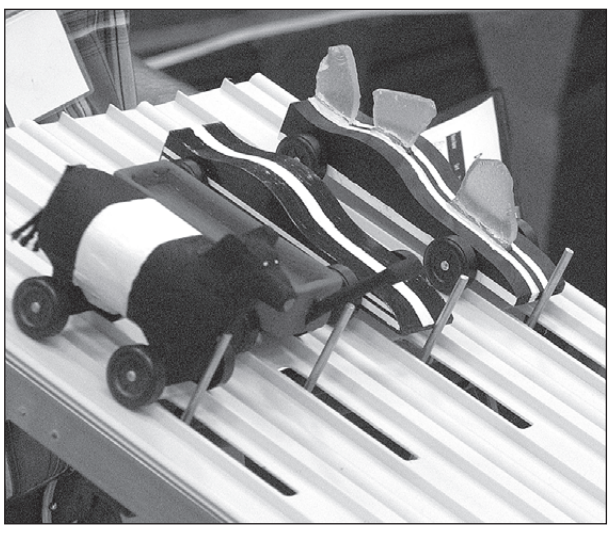
"This is probably one session of many to come, given the challenges that we want to avoid in the long run with wild pigs."

Manitobans can help the fight against wild pigs by reporting sightings or signs of their activity through squealonpigsmb.org or by calling 1-833-SPOT-PIG. Wild pigs should not be hunted, a press release from Manitoba Pork said, as that can cause their population to spread out further and harm current trapping efforts.

Boys & girls, start your engines!

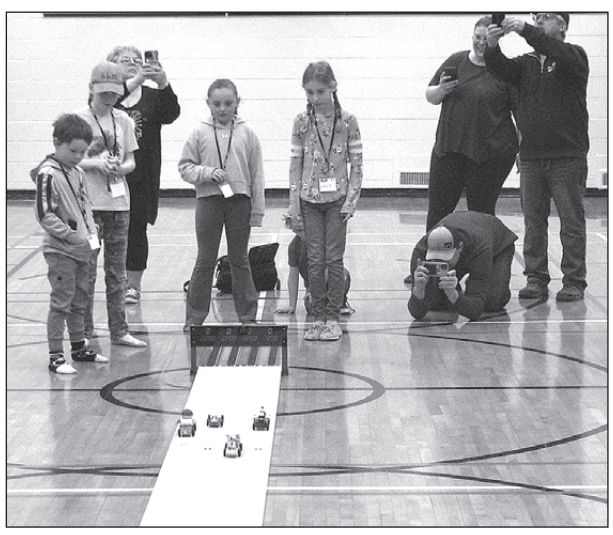
Participants in the Derby Dash wait at the finish line to see how their cars raced!

It wasn't quite the roar of the Indianapolis 500 auto race but it was just as much fun! Nampa Community Services, in partnership with Nampa Public School, held its third annual Derby Dash in the school gymnasium April 27. Children and youth were invited to register for a Kub Car kit, take it home and design their own speed racer with their parent/guardian. The cars were then taken to the gym to race with prizes awarded. Students in Grades 4-6 at the school participated through their classes. In all, 32 kits were handed out with 14 entries. Placing first was James with Kaeden second and Elijah third. Mia won a prize for Finest Craftmanship. Nampa Auto & Farm Supply was another sponsor for the event.



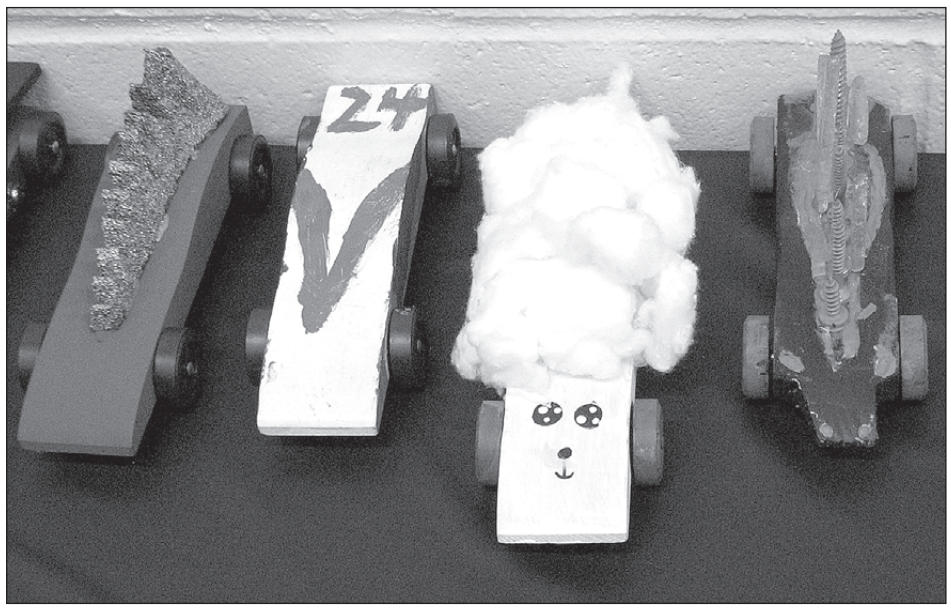
Will the "cow" car on the left prove to be fastest?

Racers surround Doug Campbell at the start.



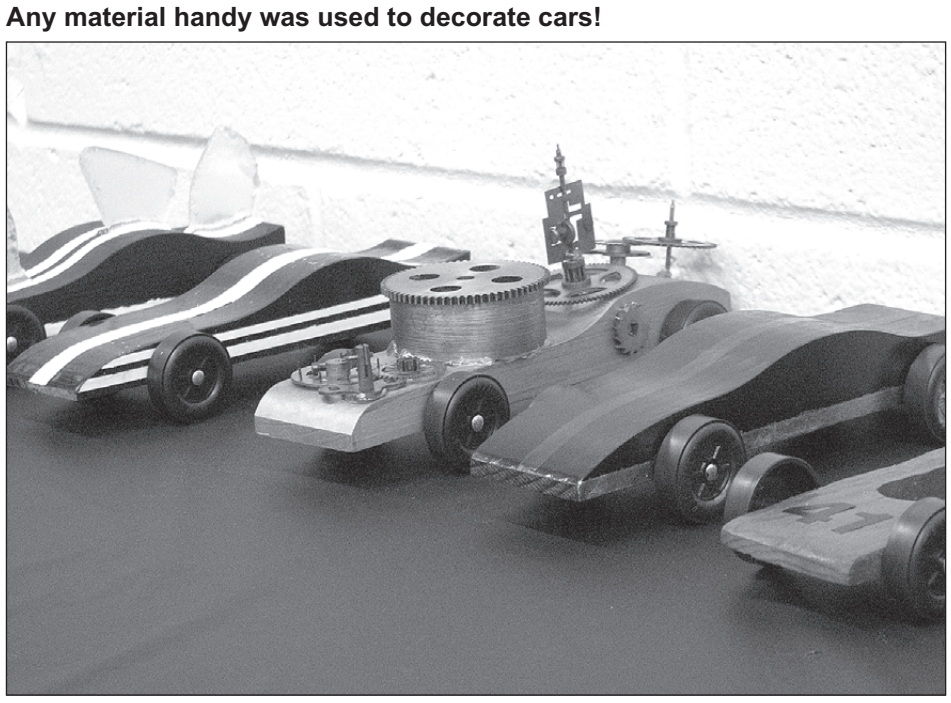
Clear the track! Here they come!

Prizes wre awarded to the builders of the fastst cars.



Any material handy was used to decorate cars!

Volunteer Doug Campbell lets go of the switch to start one of the heats.



Some of the decorate entries for Derby Dash.

The South Peace News

Sports

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www.highprairie.com

Teams expressing interest in joining NPHL

Chris Clegg
South Peace News

(High Prairie) – The NPHL has heard from two communities expressing interest in joining the league next season with a possible third in play.

NPHL president Michael Mercredi says people from Slave Lake and Fox Creek "have reached out" to him regarding entry. The High Prairie Regals also remain in play to join the existing seven teams: Dawson Creek Canucks, Falher Pirates, Fort St. John Flyers, Grande Prairie Athletics, Manning Comets, Spirit River Rangers, and Valleyview Jets.

Mercredi says each team will be invited to the spring meeting to present its case. The existing teams in good standing vote on accepting or denying expansion teams.

Mercredi declined to disclose who contacted him saying inquiries were made by the reps and they would be advised on what was required if they proceeded with an application.

The obvious detriment to an application is the travel. Slave Lake is 116 km east of High Prairie while Fox Creek is 80 km south of Valleyview. Slave Lake would be two hours away from its closest rival, assuming the High Prairie Regals do not re-enter the league. It may present scheduling concerns with existing teams in the regular season, and especially in playoffs.

Falher Pirates' president Gilbert Desharnais declined to comment on possible expansion preferring to wait until the league meeting.

In High Prairie, Jim McLean is working on submitting an application. The Regals, who are tied with the Grimshaw Huskies with the most league titles at 13, last played in the NPHL in 2018-19.

The Huskies last played in the NPHL in 2022-23 before leaving just before the season started last year. Mercredi says he has talked to Grimshaw reps over the summer and it appears it is unlikely the Huskies will return unless there is renewed interest soon.

The NPHL has not yet called its spring meeting.

The NPHL constitution only allows teams to apply for entry at the spring meeting. It does not mean teams cannot apply in the fall, however, but the process is more difficult. The constitution allows teams to call a special meeting to discuss any topic if the majority of teams sign a letter directing the league executive to do so. In terms of an expansion bid, it has never happened before.

Top 100 player list to be published in fall

(High Prairie) – The release of the NPHL's Top 100 players of all-time will have to wait until fall.

Plans to release the list just before the NPHL playoffs began in February did not come to fruition.

South Peace News editor and long-time NPHL statistician Chris Clegg is compiling the list, with input from many other people, including some who have passed away such as long-time NPHL president Jack McAvoy of Manning, Mo Provencal of Peace River, Steve Kushneryk of Valleyview, and Tony Doll of Fairview.

"I've spoken to many other people over the years and kept notes to compile this list." says Clegg.

"This was actually Jack McAvoy's idea several years. I regret this was not done before he passed away."

Pouring over 70 years worth of records and statistics to arrive at the top 100 is not an easy task.

"I have written 94 player profiles so far and at least 80-85 of these will make the Top 100 list," says Clegg.

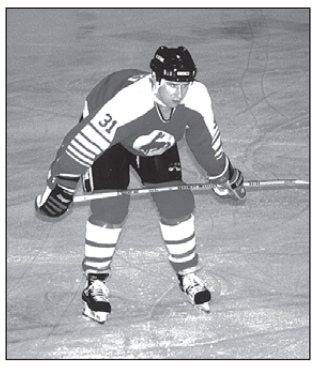
"What I can release is if you are a two-time NPHL MVP or a four-time all-star, you automatically make the list. This will eliminate some very good players who were only selected on one or two all-star teams. It is impossible to compare players from different eras, but the voters who voted for a player to make four all-star teams has to carry significant merit over a player making one or two teams."

Multiple major award winners such as MVP, best defenceman, best goaltender, or scoring champion also receive high consideration.

Clegg says four players will certainly make the top five as everyone who named him on their list.

However, there are some notable exceptions.

Al Anderson



Kevin Clemens

(Left photos) - Al Anderson, left, and Kevin Clemens, both played with the High Prairie Regals. Anderson also starred with the Lakeland Eagles and Clemens with the Peace River Stamepders. Where will they on the Top 100 list?

"Without divulging names at this point, I am surprised some players are not mentioned at all while others have been mentioned by only one person. This has prompted me to put a little more thought into the final list and inviting opinions from other people."

Anyone is free to submit choices. Email spneditor@outlook.com

The Top 100 list will be at last eight pages in a fall edition.

"I know the list will be controversial to some, who may feel certain players should be higher – or lower – but this list is compiled from many people summitting names," says Clegg.

"Many people forget just how good players from the 1950s to 1970s were. Many came from the junior or semi-pro ranks. Today, many of these players to go other leagues instead of the NPHL."

8 Chargers qualify for badminton provincials

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - Eight badminton players from the High Prairie E.W. Pratt High School are off to the provincial championships May 3-4 in Edmonton.

The eight Chargers qualified after finishing in the top two in their competition categories at the Northwest Zone finals tournament April 20 in Grande Prairie.

Liam Bilyk finished first in senior men's singles.

Abby Bilyk placed first in junior women's singles.

Jed Medriloges and Callie Calahasen finished first in intermediate mixed doubles.

Jill Boerchers and Mischa Deering finished first in senior women's doubles.

Mariah Patenaude Pederson and Gavin Greene finished second in junior mixed doubles.

Liam Bilyk, left, and Abby Bilyk, will hope to win more badminton medals at provincials this weekend.

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E	N	O	N	I	E	L	O	H	E	P	S
Y	R	E	V	I	R	D	G	I	I	R	S
S	E	S	N	O	R	I	D	T	O	L	S
G	O	G	S	E	E	R	C	S	I	Y	L
S	N	G	O	O	I	H	N	C	A	C	P
N	E	I	O	B	R	O	E	W	U	O	S
E	D	L	W	L	P	T	R	P	H	E	W
E	S	P	G	S	F	I	A	S	L	S	G
R	M	R	P	A	A	B	P	B	C	R	R
G	I	I	U	F	E	O	A	O	L	E	A
P	N	Z	T	O	R	T	R	L	S	A	S
S	E	E	T	T	C	E	T	T	L	D	S

How to play: Find all the words listed below in the puzzle and circle them. Unscramble the remaining letters to find a related word to the theme and you have solved the puzzle!
This week's theme: Time to go Golfing!

Albatross
Birdie
Bogey
Course
Cup
Driver
Eagle
Fairways
Golf ball
Grass
Greens
Grip
Hill
Hole-in-One
Irons
Logos
Pitch
Prize
Putt
Read
Rest
Score
Shop [Pro]
Slice
Spins
Sponsors
Sport
Swing
Tables
Tees
Time
Trap

Fill in the Blanks

How to play: Fill in the box with a letter to complete a word specific to the chosen theme. Read the letters from top to bottom to find a phrase relating to the theme and you have solved the puzzle.
This week's theme: Board Games

N	O	B	A	C	K		A	M	M	O	N	K
T	E	A	M	O	N		P	O	L	Y	R	E
A	P	A	R	T	S		R	R	Y	S	T	S
S	U	P	W	O	R		S	E	A	T	E	R
B	R	O	B	A	T		L	E	S	H	I	P
O	N	E	W	A	R		S	K	E	R	S	Y
I	P	A	N	D	E		I	C	E	B	E	R
W	A	R	I	C	H		S	S	A	S	A	Y
T	R	E	V	E	R		I	M	E	X	T	S
O	B	A	L	L	I		E	N	T	E	R	S
S	P	I	C	T	I		N	A	R	Y	E	R
P	O	M	A	S	T		O	U	B	L	E	M
M	I	S	S	C	R		B	B	L	E	X	Y
T	W	O	P	I	C		U	E	I	S	T	S
Z	Q	W	I	R	K		E	E	L	I	N	G

Quote-of-the-Week

"Do you think I want a lot of long-haired professors telling me what to do? If I can't run this country, I will get out."– R.B. Bennett, prime minister of Canada in 1931

Answers on next page!

Name Scramble

How to play: Simply unscramble the letters below to unveil the answer.

This week's theme: Ways to Cook Eggs

1. E A B R S D M C L
   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
2. O P D C H A E
   _ _ _ _ _ _ _
3. B E I D L O
   _ _ _ _ _ _
4. I R D F E
   _ _ _ _ _
5. W V I R E M O A C
   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
6. D E A K B
   _ _ _ _ _

Quotefalls 1

How to play: The letters in each vertical column go into the squares directly below them, but not necessarily in the order they appear. A black square indicates the end of a word. When you have placed all the letters in their correct squares, you will be able to read a quotation across the diagram from left to right. Solution is on page 26.

M I B	E O	R L C	O E A	U V	E S I	E S	L	W T I	F H H	E A E	T R	E
	■					■					■	■
							■					■
				■			■					

Quotefalls 2

W B	E I H	O M L	P I	O S E	V S O	S E	I L S	O B	T L V	E H E	S E	
			■			■						■
								■				■
■											■	■

Syl 'la-cros' tic

How to play: Fill in the answers to the clues by using all the syllables in the Syllabox. The number of syllables to be used in each answer is shown in parenthesis. The number of letters in each answer is indicated by the dashes. Each syllable will be used once. Then use the first letter of each solution to spell out a sentence and the puzzle is solved. Solution is on page 26.

A BEL CA CA CHIN E E EE ET GLO GO HAR HIS I I I
ISH LA LOR MEN MON NOUR O O PIKE RIE RU RY RY SKEL
SUE TA TAN TAP TIS TO TON TRIS TURN UN UR VEN

1. Highway (2) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
2. Mischievous boy (2) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
3. German measles (3) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
4. Eat (2) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
5. Popular pudding (4) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
6. Museum specialty (3) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
7. Weird (2) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
8. Woman's name (3) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
9. Othello's villain (3) ___ ___ ___ ___
10. Praise (2) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
11. Musical instrument (4) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
12. Cold necessity? (2) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
13. Human framework (3) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
14. Sign (2) ___ ___ ___ ___
15. Rough (3) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___
16. Man's name (2) ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

Sudoku

How to play: The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three simple instructions to follow. In a 9x9 square Sudoku game every row of 9 numbers must include all the digits 1 through 9 in any order; every column of 9 numbers must include all the digits 1 through 9 in any order; and every 3 x 3 subsection square must include all digits 1 through 9.

Easy

6			5		9			2
	2						7	1
1	8				2			
		6		9	7	5		4
	5	7				3	9	
3		4	8	5		2		
			2				6	5
7	4						3	
5			7		1			9

Medium

	9	7	3			5		
4					9	8		3
				4	7		6	
		3			8		1	7
				6				
8	6		7			2		
	8		2	3				
9		4	8					6
		6			1	7	8	

PRSD nominates Toews for Edwin Parr Award

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(Peace River) - Grimshaw Public School teacher Ethan Toews has been nominated for a provincial award for a first-year teacher.

Peace River School Division selected Toews as the Division's nominee for the Edwin Parr Teacher Award, presented annually by the Alberta School Board Association, states a PRSD news release April 19.

Toews is a worthy nominee for the award, Deputy Supt. Jeff Thompson says.

"Mr. Toews is an excellent teacher. He is going to make a difference in the lives of many students over the course of his career."

Nominated by Grimhaw school principal Jessica Shaw, Toews is described as a valued teacher in the K-12 school of 500 students.

He has excellent classroom management skills and addressed individual student needs and abilities in his classroom of 24 students, she says.

"Mr. Toews is dedicated to both his students and to the larger school community," Shaw says.

"Mr. Toews acts with integrity and fairness.

"He understands that fairness is not always equal, but what each child needs."

Shaw says he also values all students.

"Mr. Toews respects cultural diversity and promotes intercultural understanding," Shaw says.

"Mr. Toews works with the school team and students' families to ensure student needs are being met."

Ethan Toews

He understands the complexities that some students face inside and outside the classroom, Shaw notes.

She further says Toews has a calm, supportive and approachable demeanour, which allows students to feel comfortable asking for help with both academic and social struggles.

Shaw provides an example when a student expressed frustration over assigned work, feeling too difficult to complete.

"You need something harder than last week, but easier than this week," Toews responded to the student.

Through that, Toews acknowledged the student's feelings while also providing encouragement by mentioning the previous week's success, Shaw notes.

His demeanour also allows him to connect with students outside instructional time,

He can often be seen participating in active supervision while playing alongside students.

The award winner for the northwest ASBA Zone 1 will be announced at the Zone 1 annual general meeting in the fall.

Holy Family nominates Randall for Catholic award

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(Peace River) - Peace River School teacher Scott Randall has been nominated for a provincial Catholic teaching award.

Holy Family Catholic Regional Division nominated the Glenmary School teacher for the Excellence in Catholic Education Award presented annually by the Council of Catholic School Superintendents of Alberta, states an HFCRD news release dated April 22.

The award recognizes Catholic school teachers who do an exemplary job to prepare students to grow into outstanding Catholic citizens.

Randall is always willing to go above and beyond at the school as a teacher and co-ordinator, at community events, the church parish and volunteer work.

He genuinely cares about the well being and success of each student and the school community.

Randall devotes much time and effort into being a positive role model both in the profession and in everyday life.

He is always willing to lend a hand and take action to help out when needed.

Randall has been a teacher leader with HFCRD for 24 years and has served in many roles in three different schools in the division.

He has taught elementary and high school students and been an off-campus co-ordinator for Glenmary and the division.

Scott Randall

Randall has taught religion in several grades.

He is a leader and organizer of the student music ministry for all school masses and celebrations.

Randall is a regular parishioner and leader in music ministry at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Peace River.

He has been an active member of the Knights of Columbus for more than 20 years.

He often recruits students to volunteer with him at pancake breakfasts at the parish and organizes the Knights of Columbus basketball free throw competitions.

Randall also coaches junior girls volleyball.

KAPAWE'NO FIRST NATION
P.O. Box 10, Grouard, Alberta T0G 1C0
Phone (780) 751-3800 Fax (780) 751-3864

CHILDCARE WORKERS LEVEL 3 & LEVEL 2

Kapawe'no First Nation is seeking a caring and compassionate individual for Level 3 and Level 2 childcare worker positions.

Job Summary:

Under the directions of the Early Learning Director, the childcare worker will be responsible for providing top-quality care and education to children between the ages of 12 months and 5 years old. Our main goal is to enhance the lives of every child enrolled in our daycare program.

Duties & Responsibilities:

- Supervise children and ensure the delivery of the programs and activities are carried out in a safe and effective manner
- Interact with children ages 1-5 in a developmentally appropriate manner and encourage their involvement in activities.
- Prepare snacks and meals for children.
- Provide play-based structured and unstructured activities for children.
- Maintain safe and healthy spaces and adhere to licensing and health standards.
- Communicate with parents and/or guardians.
- Perform the following through with administrative and professional development tasks.
- Carry out other duties as required and assigned by the nation manager.

Skills & Qualifications:

In addition to bringing a commitment to Kapawe'no First Nation vision and values, the candidate should possess the following competencies:

- Candidates with Level 2 Certification or higher are preferred.
- Grade 12 or higher.
- Valid First Aid/CPR Training.
- Experience working in a daycare facility and/or setting.
- Patience, Empathy, and Compassion skills.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Creative problem-solving skills.
- Strong organization and Planning skills.
- Ability to interact with children of all ages.
- Ability to work independently and be a team player.
- Competent computer skills, including the use of Microsoft applications.
- Must have a valid class 5 driver's license and clear driver's abstract.
- Ability to pass a 12-panel drug test and be fit for duty.

This position requires a clear Venerable Sector and intervention Record check.

Submit Resume to rebecca@kfnschool.ca

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The South Peace News Coffee Break Answers

Find-a-Word

Wedge

Fill in the Blanks

The quotation answer: Good times for all
Words in order from top to bottom: Backgammon, Monopoly, Sorry, Upwords, Battleship, Risk, Pandemic, Chess, Reversi, Life, Pictionary, Trouble, Scrabble, Clue, Qwirkle.

Name Scramble

1. Scrambled 2. Poached 3. Boiled 4. Fried 5. Microwave 6. Baked

Quotefalls

Quotefalls 1: I love life because what more is there? - Anthony Hopkins
Quotefalls 2: Who so loves believes the impossible. - Elizabeth Browning

Syl 'la'cros' tic

The quotation answer: Turn the lights out
1. Turnpike 2. Urchin 3. Rubella 4. Nourish 5. Tapioca 6. History 7. Eerie 8. Loretta 9. Iago 10. Glory 11. Harmonica 12. Tissue 13. Skeleton 14. Omen 15. Uneven 16. Tristan

Sudoku

Easy

6	7	3	5	1	9	8	4	2
4	2	5	6	8	3	9	7	1
1	8	9	4	7	2	6	5	3
2	1	6	3	9	7	5	8	4
8	5	7	1	2	4	3	9	6
3	9	4	8	5	6	2	1	7
9	3	1	2	4	8	7	6	5
7	4	2	9	6	5	1	3	8
5	6	8	7	3	1	4	2	9

Medium

6	9	7	3	8	2	5	4	1
4	5	2	6	1	9	8	7	3
1	3	8	5	4	7	9	6	2
5	4	3	9	2	8	6	1	7
2	7	9	1	6	3	4	5	8
8	6	1	7	5	4	2	3	9
7	8	5	2	3	6	1	9	4
9	1	4	8	7	5	3	2	6
3	2	6	4	9	1	7	8	5

Students learn different mediums of art

Art students attending classes at High Prairie E.W. Pratt High School are taught various forms of art as they continue to expand their skills. Recently, students entered the world of watercolours that led them into creating their landscapes clearly with a place, time of day and time of year. Students receive instruction from Rhonda Lund.

(Left photo) - Grade 10, Art 10 student Madina Sharkawi used watercolour, complimentary colours and a wet-on-wet technique to bring summer days to reality.

Grade 10, Art 10 student Georgia Halldorson used watercolour, hot colours and atmospheric perspective to create mood in her assignment.

Grade 10, Art 10 student Megan Laderoute created art with a purpose using an image of a beloved character, acrylic paint and her Art 10 skills.

Grade 11, Art 10 student Ariana Rotenburger created atmospheric perspective through layering, form and a diminishing river, using watercolours.

Grade 10, Art 10 student Zoey Strebchuk used atmospheric perspective and watercolour paint to create a starry night.

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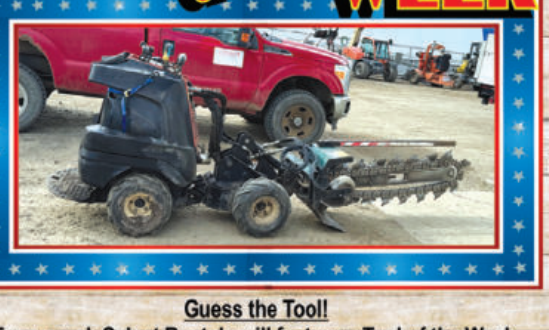
Guess the Tool!
Every week Select Rentals will feature a Tool of the Week. Take a guess at what that tool is and enter your name for a chance to win a monthly prize! Enter your name at Select Rentals or South Peace News offices in High Prairie. You can also enter online at southpeacenews.com and click on the Select Rental banner. Only one entry per person per day.

HIGH PRAIRIE REGIONAL AQUATIC CENTRE
High Prairie Heart of Big Lakes
@ High Prairie Regional Aquatic Centre
5002-56 Avenue
Phone 780-523-4224
highprairie.ca/p/aquaticcentre
Ramona Rollins: Recreation Superintendent
recsuperintendent@highprairie.ca

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS
Tuesday, May 14 - 6:00 pm
Tuesday, May 28 - 6:00 pm
Tuesday, June 11 - 6:00 pm
Tuesday, April 23 - 6:00 pm
Council meetings are held in the Town of High Prairie Council Chambers - 4806-53 Avenue

Town of High Prairie
4806-53 Avenue, Box 179
High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0
780-523-3388
24 Hour Emergency:780-523-7620
highprairie.ca

High Prairie Regional Aquatic Centre Schedule
April 30th - May 4th, 2024

Tuesday 30	Wednesday 1	Thursday 2	Friday 3	Saturday 4
11:00-12:00pm Peavine Rental	11:00-12:00pm HPE Rental	10:30-11:30am HPE Rental	Schedule may change without notice due to unforeseen events	
12:00-1:30pm Clarence Jaycox School Rental	12:00-2:00pm Lane & Leisure	12:00-2:00pm Lane & Leisure	12:00-2:00pm Lane & Leisure	12:00-1:00pm Lane & Leisure
1:45-2:45pm Lane & Leisure/Water Fitness	2:00-3:00pm Outreach Rental	1:00-1:45pm Water Fitness	Pool Operations	1:00-2:30pm Family Swim
2:00-3:00pm Senior/Parent & Tot	Pool Operations	2:00-3:00pm Senior/Parent & Tot	3:00-5:30pm Public Swim	3:00-5:00pm Public Swim
3:30-6:00pm Swim For Life Lessons	4:00-7:00pm Dolphins Swim Club Rental / $4 Swim (Leisure & Hot Tub Only)	3:30-6:00pm Swim For Life Lessons		
		4:00-7:00pm Dolphins Swim Club		
6:00-8:00pm Adult Swim	7:00-8:30pm Family Swim	7:00-8:30pm Adult Swim		

NO SCHOOL MAY 10 2024
send them to PD DAY CAMP
A fun-filled day for kids!
Register by May 8th - Space for 30 campers!
Early drop-off times for working parents: as early as 7:45 am and pick up no later than 4:00 pm!
8:00-9:30AM – CRAFTS - Aquatic Centre Party Room (Drop off 7:45 – 9:15)
9:30AM WALK
10:00-11:00AM – DRY SPORTS - GBC Arena
11:00AM WALK- **11:30-12:15PM** - LUNCH - Aquatic Centre party room
12:15-1:45PM - SWIMMING - Aquatic Centre
2:00-4:00PM – MOVIE/SIDEWALK ART (weather dependent) & SNACK - Aquatic Centre Party Room
1 CHILD: $40 2 CHILDREN: $36 each
3 CHILDREN: $32 each
For more information or to register call 780-523-4224

BLC prepares plan to engage citizens

Richard Froese
South Peace News

(High Prairie) - Big Lakes County council members will soon be more visible at community events to allow citizens to share their views and discuss issues with elected officials.

At its regular meeting April 24, council directed administration to draft a community engagement policy.

The proposal was presented by Reeve Tyler Airth as a late agenda item at council's regular meeting March 27.

Council plans to have a Big Lakes presence at local events as a way to engage more citizens.

CAO David Reynolds says council has discussed the issue for some time.

"One of the things we've been talking about in the past few months is community engagement," Reynolds says.

"We want to find out what residents want.

"How can we get citizens more engaged with the County?"

He adds the program will provide residents a simple way to share their views on County services and discuss them with council members.

"We want to find out how residents are feeling about service and costs," Reynolds says.

"We can help build our budget with that in the future."

Big Lakes promoted its services and programs at the annual High Prairie Gun and Sportsman Show where council and staff were available to discuss issues and concerns.

North Gilwood – Triangle Councillor Jim Zabolotniuk had some doubt about the engagement program.

"I was at the gun show and I never had any ratepayers express any concerns," he said.

"I don't think anyone will come."

Instead of hosting a separate event on its own, council representatives would be present at community events.

Big Lakes County councillors promote services and programs at their display at the annual High Prairie Gun and Sportsman Show on April 20-21. Left-right, are Enilda – Big Meadow Councillor Lane Monteith and Kinuso Councillor Roberta Hunt.

"We're not going to have our own function," Airth said.

"It's simply not going to be a whole day, just a couple of hours."

South Gilwood – Sunset House Councillor Ann Stewart recommended council members not be paid for attending the events, which other members of council support.

Kinuso Councillor Roberta Hunt recommended the events be attended by the local council member and one other council member.

Reynolds explained the focus of engage in a report April 24.

"Resident engagement events serve as crucial platforms to foster community involvement and enhance civic participation," Reynolds said.

"These events provide opportunities for council and administration to interact directly with residents, gather feedback, address concerns and collaborate on local issues."

Resident engagement events would promote transparency and accountability.

The Deadline for all Advertising is Wednesday at 4:00 pm one week prior to publication

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South Peace News/Mary Burgar
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Freson Bros.
Royal Canadian Air Cadets #539, High Prairie
St. Andrews staff & Students' Travel Club
Gerry Killeen
Robert & Suzanne Benoit
Karen Benoit
Darryl & Deanne Basarab
Irene & Claude Girard
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June 16th, 2024 Welcome the Wagon Train at Willow Park
June 17th, 2024 Opening Ceremonies & Activities, Evening Entertainment
June 18th, 2024 Workshops, Cultural Teachings, Youth Activities, Evening Entertainment
June 19th, 2024 Workshops, Cultural Teachings, Youth Activities, Evening Entertainment
June 20th, 2024 Workshops, Cultural Teachings, Youth Activities, Evening Entertainment
June 21st, 2024 Re-Enactment of Signing, Round Dance & Tea Dance
June 22nd, 2024 Travel Day
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